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BIRD-NOTES.

THE JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB,
FOR THE STUDY OF ALL SPECIES OF BIRDS
IN FREEDOM AND CAPTIVITY : : : : : :

VOLUME VIII.—NEW SERIES.

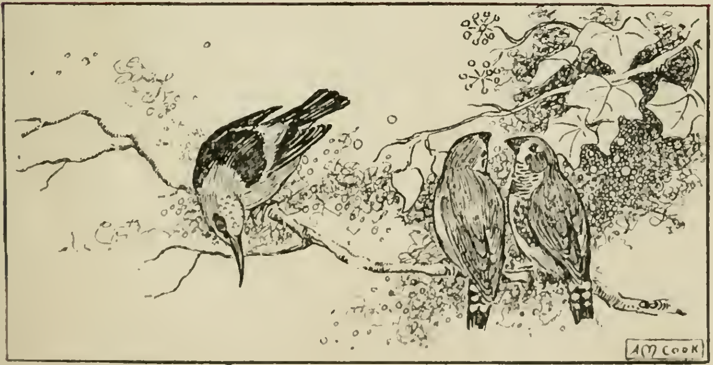
55.82,06(A2)
CAT

> "*By mutual confidence and mutual aid,*
> *Great deeds are done and great discoveries made.*"

EDITED BY

WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

AUTHOR OF "AVIARIES AND AVIARY LIFE," ETC.



ASHBOURNE.
J. H. HENSTOCK, "AVIAN PRESS,"
1917.

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Contents.

TITLE PAGE .... *i.*
SECRETARY'S REPORT .... *iv.*
LIST OF PLATES .... *v.*
ILLUSTRATIONS IN THE TEXT .... *vi.*
INDEX TO CONTRIBUTORS .... *vii.*
THE MAGAZINE .... 1.
GENERAL INDEX .... 276.
INDEX TO GENERA AND SPECIES .... 283.
INSET .... *Pink Pages.*

Secretary's Report.

With this issue Vol. viii, N.S., of Bird Notes is complete. Owing to the war the usual number of coloured plates has been impossible. Members will, we think, agree that the photo-reproductions, both those as plates and in the text, have been freely given and of excellent quality, and reflect great credit on our printer and publisher. In the Journal most interesting articles have been published, our worthy Editor, Mr. Page, having spared no pains to keep the issues of 1917 up to the high standard of the past.

If more members will contribute articles on their birds, whether breeding results or merely as collections of birds, we shall be able to look forward to 1918 to be even a better year than any that have gone before.

During the past year this terrible war has claimed some of our most liberal supporters, both financial and literary. They will never be forgotten, and we shall always remember they were proud of the Club Journal. We ask you one and all to do your best to make good this loss—we owe it to those who have given their lives in this world-struggle, and who, amid the heat of conflict, found time to contribute to the Journal.

To those, one and all, who have suffered bereavement we extend our deepest sympathy.

Let us hope that before 1918 closes, peace will again reign, and those scattered in the various war areas will have returned home again, and the next report be written under much happier auspicies than the above.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS,

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

List of Plates.

Opposite Page
On Leave—A Rest from the Horrors of War ... 1
Nest and Eggs of Sikhim Siskin ... 14
Nest and Eggs of Black-breasted Mexican Quail ... 21
Black-breasted Mexican Quail, ♂ and ♀ ... 22
Cuvier's Toucan *(R. cuvieri)* ... 41, 43, 46
Toucan—At Rest ... 44
Peaceful Doves ... 47
Cock Masked Dove Incubating ... 48
Young Diamond Doves ... 48
Cacatua galerita and Young ... 63
Young Sulphur-crested Cockatoos ... 64
Brush Bronze-wing Doves and Young ... 68
Green Woodpecker in the Firing-line ... 85
Orchard Finches and Nest ... 90
Red-legged Cuban Thrush ... 93
Young Yellow-winged Sugarbird ... 106
Nest of Yellow-winged Sugarbird ... 107
"Bogey"—The Spectacled Owl ... 109
Nest and Eggs of *P. leucotis* ... 133
Cock (1) and Hen (2) *P. leucotis* incubating ... 134
Hen *P. leucotis* feeding Young ... 135
The Curlew ... 137
Indian Shamah ♂ ... 150
Young Indian Shamahs ... 151, 152
Green Fruit-Pigeon and Young ... 157
Green Fruit-Pigeons and Young ... 158
Cock Indian Shamah carrying food to second brood ... 176
Black-tailed Hawfinches attending to young ... 181
Black-tailed Hawfinches Incubating ... 182
Black-tailed Hawfinches feeding young ... 182
Young Black-tailed Hawfinches in Nest ... 183
Cherry Finches ♂ and ♀ ... 205, 206
Fieldfare's Nest and Eggs ... 216
Hen Fieldfare ... 217
Redwing ... 219
The Laughing Jackass ... 229
Abyssinian Weavers' Nests over the Water ... 248
Double-banded Finches ... 253
Mr. E. R. Phillips' Lorikeet Aviary ... 256
Half-masked Weaver Nest building ... 267
Half-masked Weaver Nest building ... 268
Baya Weaver's Nest ... 269

Illustrations in the Text.

page
Facsimile of Xmas Card from the Front 2
Special Banjo-type Nest Box 15
A Beginner's Aviary—Diagrams and Plans .... 26, 27.
Nest of Indian Golden Oriole *(O. o. kundoo)* 34
Himalayan Blue Whistling-Thrush 35
Masked Doves Brooding Young 49
Ground Plan—A Suburban Aviary 53
Section through Bath 55
Cacatua galerita—Nest Site 62
Young Sulphur-crested Cockatoos 63
Diagram—Bottle Water-hopper 74
Diagram—Food Table 75
Diagram—Nest Boxes 75
Long-tailed Grassfinches 124
Yellow-winged Sugarbird and Zebra Finches 125
Device for continuous supply of fresh water 203
Nest of Redwing 217
Laughing Jackass (and mouse) 231
Shaft-tailed Whydah *(T. regia)* 238
Long-tailed Whydah *(D. progne)* 242
Red-billed Weavers' Nests used by Zebra Finches 249

Index to Contributors.

* Denotes Correspondence.

Anderson, T. H.
* Thrush × Blackbird Hybrids, 200.

Baily, W. Shore.
Hybrid Breeding, 13.
Nesting of the Black-breasted Mexican Quail, 21.
Some Doves I have kept, 47, 68.
Nesting of White-cheeked Finch-Lark, 133.
Cruise on the S.Y. "Vectis," 140, 176, 221, 273.
Breeding of the Green Fruit-Pigeon, 157.
Breeding of Black-tailed Hawfinch, 181.
Nesting of the Fieldfare, etc., 216.
Weavers, 247, 267.

Bartels, O.
* An Australian Aviary, 131.

Bright, Herbert E.
Aviary Notes—1917, 124.
Nesting Notes-1917, 194.
Breeding of Hybrid Chestnut-breasted Finch × Silverbill, 244
Breeding of Hybrid Magpie Mannikin × Silverbill, 245.
* Notes of the Season—1917, 251.

Burgess, Mrs. M. A.
My Aviary Room and its Occupants, 93.
Stray Notes in My Birdroom, 207.

Calvocaresi, P. J.
* Device for continuous supply of Fresh Water, 203.

CHATTERTON, MRS.

* Yellow Budgerigars from Green, 251.

CHAWNER, MISS E. F.

* Breeding Yellow-rumped Serin × St. Helena Seed-eater Hybrid, 72.

Spectacled Owl, The, 109.

CRABB, G.

* Blackbird × Thrush Hybrid, 273.

DAWSON, CHAS., S.J., M.A. (OXON).

Birds of British Guiana, The, 76, 103, 126, 147, 170, 224, 265.

DAWSON-SMITH, LT. F.

Across the Channel—Somewhere in France, 110.

Some Notes on the Curlew, 137.

The Laughing Jackass, 229.

DICKINSON, MRS. E.

Notes from an Amateur in Ceylon, 187.

EDITORIAL.

Nesting of the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, 59.

Nesting Habits of the Rain Quail, 59.

Nidification of the Golden Weaver Bird, 59.

The Green Avadavat, 60.
Queen Alexandra Parrakeets, 82, 106.
Banded Crake, 82.
Some Birds of the Gurdaspur District (Punjab), 83.
Obituary, 84, 108, 131, 227, 252.
Young Yellow-winged Sugarbird, 106.
White-cheeked Finch-Lark, 130.
Nesting Notes, 130.
Errata, 131.
Doves, 155.
Diamond Doves, etc., 155.
Young Chaffinches, 156.
Cockatoo Hybrids, 156.
Zoo Notes, 156, 175, 197, 226, 272.
Blue Budgerigars, 156.
Breeding of Shamahs, 176.
Yellow-rumped Tanagers, 197.
Retrospect, A. 271.
Notice—Post Mortem Reports, 273.

FULLJAMES, HENRY J.

* Breeding Song Thrush × Blackbird Hybrids, 198.

GARDINER, MRS. STANLEY

Breeding of Sydney Waxbills, 3

HARPER, E. W., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

Birds Seen in the Suburbs of Calcutta, 159.

Hebb, T
    Breeding Notes—1917, 227.

Hopkinson, Dr. E., D.S.O., etc.
    * Blackbird × Thrush Hybrids, 180.
    Whydahs, 183, 210, 237, 260.
    * Breeding of Hybrid Queries, 227.

Knobel, Miss E. Maud
    The Story of Jobo, 95

Leach, C. F., F.Z.S.
    Some Toucans, 45.

Lee, Mrs. M. A.
    * A Cockatoo Hybrid, 204.
    Breeding of Hybrid Cockatoos, 232.

Longdon, Mrs. C. A.
    My Breeding Experiences—1916, 10.
    * Hybrid Hawfinch × Bullfinch, 39.

Perreau, Major G. A., F.Z.S.
    Bakloh Aviary Notes—1916, Part iv., 5.

Low, G. E.
    Breeding of the Indian Shamah, 150.
    * Breeding of Shamahs, 204.

Lucas, Dr. N. S., F.Z.S.
    Bird Life in the Firing Line, 116.

Lucas, Miss E.
    Breeding of Hybrid Finches, 250.

Marsden, J. W.

* Breeding Blue Budgerigars, 60, 228.

Ideas on Origin and Breeding of Blue Budgerigars, 129.

Page, Wesley T., F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

1917, 1.

Early Experiences, 19, 23, 51, 73, 118, 152, 167.

Private Importation of Indian Birds in 1916., 31, 58, 65, 98, 135.

Some Toucans, 41.

Green Woodpecker. The, 85.

Orchard Finch. The, 90.

Brit. Bird Calendar, 108.

Cherry Finch. The, 205.

* Is the Pin-tailed Whydah Parasitic?, 39 (pink pages).

Bicheno's and Ringed Finches, 254.

Phillips, E. R.

Breeding of Swainson's Lorikeets, 257.

Raynor, Rev. G. H., M.A.

* To Abolish Rats and Mice, 107.

British Bird Calendar, 108.

Reeve, Capt. J. S.

British Bird Calendar, 132.

Reviewer.

Menagerie Club Year Book—1916, 40.

Seth-Smith, D., F.Z.S.

* Thrush × Blackbird Hybrids, 199.

Smith, J.

* Breeding Notes—1917, 180.

Stewart, B. Theo.

The Blackbird that Blighted my Life, 87.

Suggitt, R.

The Nesting of the Brambling, 234

Swan, J. A.

Foreign Birds, 162.

Tatnall, A.

Brit. Bird Calendar, 108.

Tavistock, The Marquis of

Notes of the Season, 191.

* Rearing of Blue-winged Grass Parrakeets, etc., 251.

Thomasset, B. C.

* Aviary Notes, 131.

Tomlinson, M. R.

Birds Feeding at Night, 12.

Weir, J.

* Keeping Magpie in Cage, etc., 132.

Weston, A.

Birds of Queensland, 114.

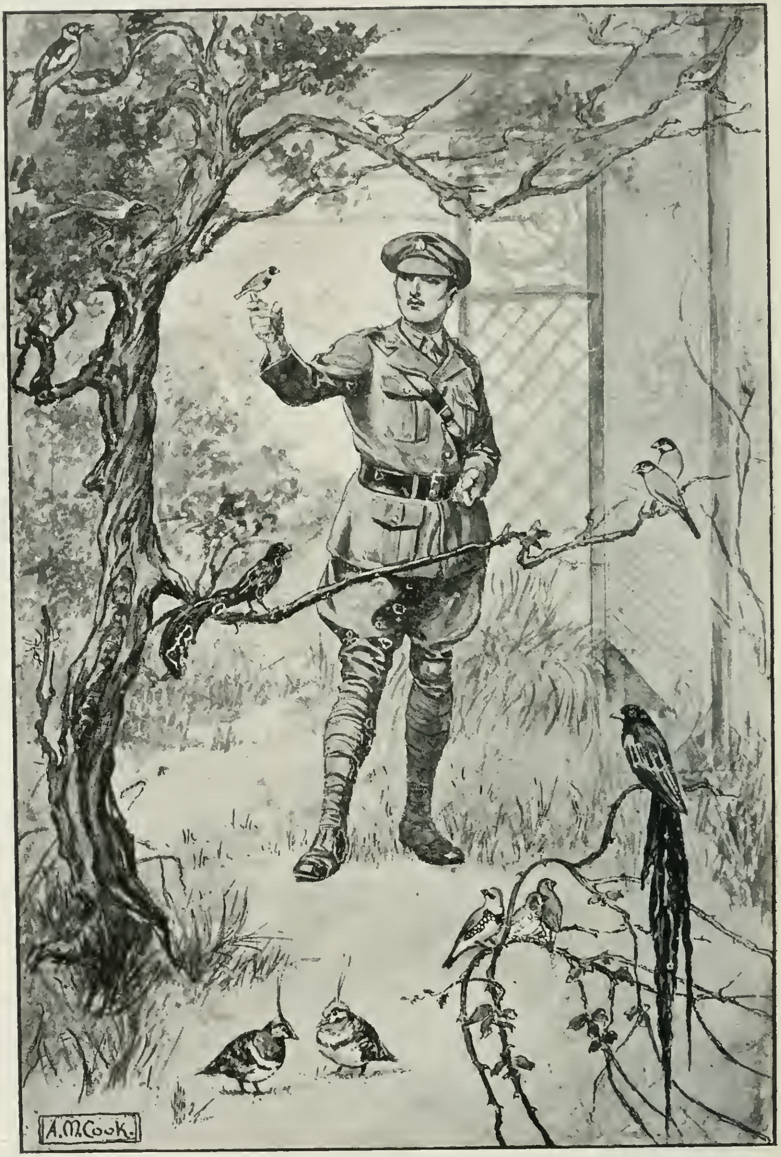
Whitley, H.

Successful Breeding of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, 61.

* Cockatoo Nesting Notes, 273.

Workman, W. H., M.B.O.U.

Blue-Mountain Lorikeet, 215.



"On Leave—A Rest from the Horrors of War."

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JANUARY, 1917

BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

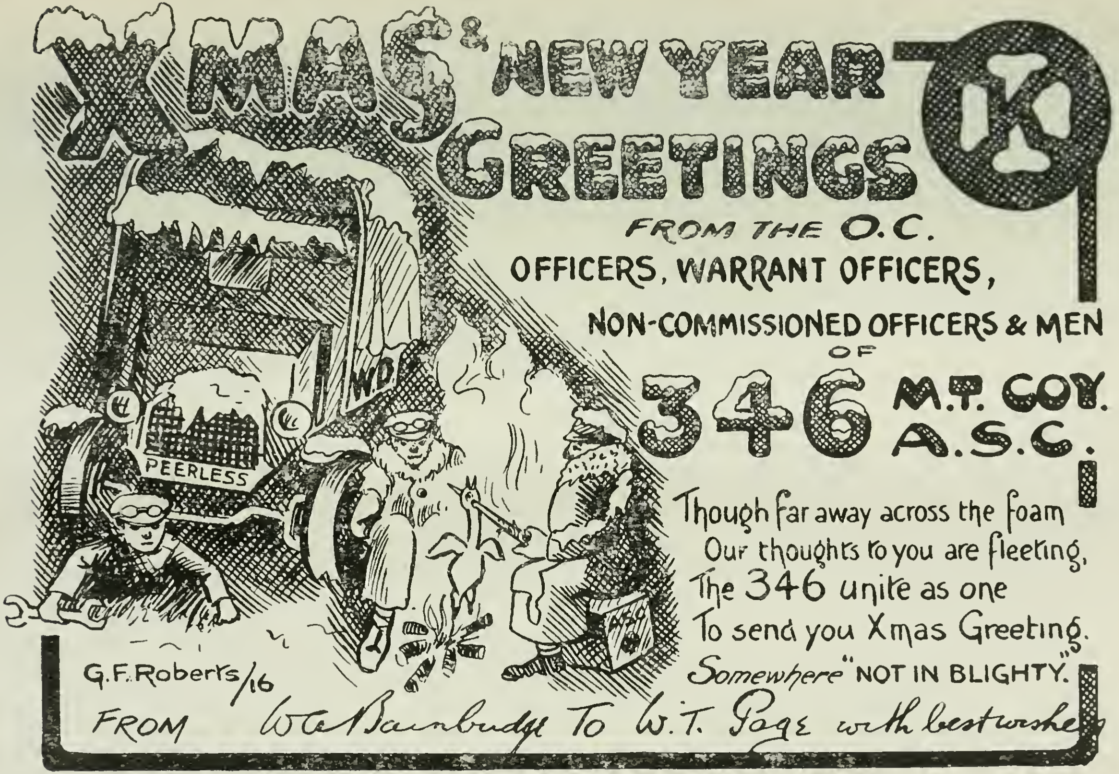
1917.

Our frontispiece practically gives the key to, and shadows forth, what the immediate present and near future contain for us, both as members of F.B.C., and as part of the nation—fighting or working for the nation; this will loom out in the next few months as the main purpose of our lives, all else being subordinate thereto. It will doubtless mean for many, who are too old or unfit for the fighting line, separation from home-life, while they serve in other ways.

Now just a word about the actualities of the frontispiece; while the figure is not a portrait, yet it is the replica of a scene which the writer witnessed, when visiting one of our members a few months ago, who was enjoying a short leave from his duties at the front—so, both the plate and title figure a bit of unexaggerated life.

Here I must interpolate a word of appreciation and thanks to the artist (Mrs. Alice M. Cook) who has so ably given effect to a mere word sketch, and, moreover, has done the work gratuitously, for which we owe and tender her our appreciative thanks.

The Xmas Card, an original one from the Macedonian Front, which we reproduce herewith, tells a similar story, and many letters penned amid the stern realities and horrors of the Western and Eastern fighting-lines echo the same refrain, that the home-life, its responsibilities and pleasures, are ever with them, and several most interesting articles and letters in last volume of "B.N." were penned amid the turmoil of the fighting-fronts of Mesopotamia, France, Flanders, and Salonika.



XMAS & NEW YEAR GREETINGS

FROM THE O.C.
OFFICERS, WARRANT OFFICERS,
NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS & MEN
OF
346 M.T. COY.
A.S.C.

Though far away across the foam
Our thoughts to you are fleeting,
The 346 unite as one
To send you Xmas Greeting.
Somewhere "NOT IN BLIGHTY."

G.F. Roberts/16

FROM W. C. Bainbridge To W.T. Page with best wishes

PEERLESS
W.D.

The writer will be very fully occupied during the coming months, and many others will be similarly situated; yet we have only to meet these claims upon us in the same spirit as those alluded to above, for the volume of "B.N.," commenced with this issue, to surpass the one just completed. The moments left free, by the claims of Home and Country, can well be used in the furtherance of keeping our Club and its Journal going.

Undoubtedly many aviaries and collections must, for the time being, be left to the care of others—someone at home or an attendant—these should be asked to keep a diary of all happenings, which could be tabulated for our pages as opportunity offers. Those in happier case, who are able to fulfil the claims of Country while remaining at home, with all the peace and comfort this means, *must* feel it incumbent upon them to do the major part of the work (supplying copy, etc.) necessary to keep things going.

It is a most thankless and difficult task to write a forecast at such a time—much more might easily be written and written in a fairly buoyant strain too! It might be classed as presumption and out of place, as possibly the above may be! However this may be, the writer most certainly offers no apology for penning it and hopes that all will cordially co-operate as far as possible during the coming year, which will then be a successful one for the F.B.C., and bring us, we hope, the PEACE we are fighting for.

THE EDITOR.

◆

Breeding of Sydney Waxbills,

By Mrs. Stanley Gardiner.

In response to your request for an account of my success with Sydney Waxbills (*Aegintha temporalis*), I only regret that I can supply you with very little accurate information. You shall, however, have such facts as I know myself. My success was due to following that old adage: "Leave well alone."

My aviary is unheated, and 20ft. long. It consists of a shelter, store-room, covered and uncovered flights. The floor is gravelled ; there is a strip of grass, but no growing trees. Nesting accommodation is provided by boxes, bundles of pea-sticks, etc.

I purchased three Sydney Waxbills in March, 1915. They seemed very healthy, and after keeping them caged for a month I put them into the aviary. At this period all three were absolutely indistinguishable from each other, and continued so for the whole of the year. In the early spring of 1916 one of them developed a curious little black bib, similar to that of a siskin, but this may be only a chance variation. It is the only distinguishing mark I have been able to find.

The birds made no attempt at nesting during 1915. They wintered out of doors in perfect health, on canary and millet seed alone, without insectile or any kind of soft-food.

Early in March (1916), a grotesquely large nest was built in a bundle of pea-sticks, constructed with hay, canary grass grown the previous summer, and lined with cotton wool. It was dome-shaped, with a side entrance. Immediately behind it another similar, but smaller nest was made. Most careful observation convinced me that all three birds sat in both nests indiscriminately, and neither then, nor since have I seen any conduct which indicates sex in any of them. Soon after the nest was completed we had a blizzard, which cost me a lovely Aurora Finch, and a Bicheno's Finch, both egg-bound; but the Sydneys flourished as before, except that all interest in the nests vanished. I usually remove discarded nests, and entered the aviary one day with that intention, but some impulse made me leave them alone, and at the end of May the largest nest was furbished up again, and the birds settled down to breeding. During the whole period all three birds haunted the neighbourhood of the nest, and I never identified the two parents, except that the bird with the bib was one. Incubation was less close than with many species, as all three birds were often visible and almost always in close companionship, and I was not sure of my good fortune until the young family was audible, in the month of June.

The young birds were very noisy in the nest, almost like Zebra Finches. All three adults would eat very freely of fresh ants' eggs, and would all disappear in the vicinity of the nest. It was difficult to see the actual entry into the nest, as these birds were more circumspect in this way than any I ever kept. The young left the nest very late, being over a month old, and were strong on the wing at their first appearance. Unlike baby Zebra Finches they did not return to the nest after the first day or two. In plumage they resembled baby Zebra Finches very closely, being palish grey in colour with black beaks and feet. The parents actually fed them until the characteristic crimson eye-streaks and red beak began to show, fully three weeks after leaving the nest. This first brood consisted of three birds, all of which which were indistinguishable from their parents by September.

A second brood of three emerged from the nest on September 21st; two of them were killed by owls on October 12th, at which time they were still being fed by their parents although showing the crimson eye-marks. Three other Sydneys shared the same fate on that tragic day. I am left with four survivors, one being the bird with the bib, and another being the last of the second brood. So I have hopes for further success in the coming season.

◆

Bakloh Aviary Notes, 1916.—Part IV.

By Major G. A. Perreau, F.Z.S.

I propose to write a few notes of some of my aviary birds in a wild state. In some ways we score, as casualties are generally easily replaced but this is also the case when one is breeding British birds in Britain.

The Pied Bush-Chat (*Pratincola caprata*) is a decided acquisition to the aviary. Though very common in many parts of India, it is seldom taken home, perhaps on account of their commonness. Like all chats with which I have had a cage acquaintance, it is very easy to catch and not hard to meat off. They arrive in Bakloh at the beginning of March as a rule, in pairs, and start nesting almost at once, having two broods in succession and sometimes three, I believe, as I have found a nest with eggs in mid-August. They build in a hole or crevice in a low bank, generally quite low down, practically on the ground, often at the foot of a bush. The depression is filled up with a cup-shaped nest of moss and grass, lined with anything fine, wool, fibre, or hair. The clutch is three or four and sometimes five; the eggs have reddish speckles on a greenish back-ground. One seldom sees more than three (more often only two), fledglings with their parents; few birds seem to rear their full clutch when wild; these birds are especially bad at giving away their nests, when they have young, through over-anxiety. They leave Bakloh early in October.

The cock has quite a nice song and sings a great deal in the spring, sometimes from a perch, but more often on the wing during his courting flights, which are very pretty to watch. He uses a slow butterfly flap all the time, the wings nearly meeting behind the back at each stroke, far more like a butterfly than a bird, and he sings hard from start to finish. He mounts fairly quickly to, say, thirty to forty feet, fairly straight, taking, say, one circle to get up, then he soars slowly round in a thirty foot circle for ten to fifteen minutes and then slowly descends in diminishing circles to where his lady awaits him. From several little knolls that I know of, one can often see three or four soaring at once, not quite close together of course. If two do get a bit too close, soaring ceases abruptly, and both drop to the ground to fight it out. They seem to funk a combat in the air. The fights are mostly display, and cease on the arrival of the hens, to whom they transfer their fury. There are apparently lots of hens, one never sees a solitary cock or hen either for that matter, but an odd hen would more easily escape notice.

It has a very wide distribution and breeds both in the plains and in the hills up to 5,000 feet. It's native name is pidha and it is often kept for its song. It used to be usually procurable in the Calcutta and (longer ago) Bombay markets. I fancy like most insectivorous birds there, it is kept in condition with grasshoppers and many maggots, satoo is put in many cages as a make-believe, or perhaps a fill-up, live insects being really the staple. It does eat a little fruit and cake in the aviary, and is easily kept alive on good insect food and a *few* live insects, but I cannot believe that satoo is a good staple diet for any insectivorous birds but the hardiest, and even then it has to be well made. Our Punjab satoo is a good bird killer, even Ouzels do better on other foods.

The cock is all black, except underparts below breast, and wings, and rump, which are white. The hen is brown, "hen robiny," lighter beneath. About the size of a Stonechat, of which they are not far distant relations. The cock when sitting still, often looks all black, but shows very much as black and white in flight.

TAILOR BIRDS (*Orthotomus sutorius*). I have already written about in "Bird Notes," but am not sure whether I had kept them at that time, and it is a long time ago. They are small slim birds, greenish yellow above, and ashy white, beneath, forehead chestnut. Tail is long, and that of cock in breeding season becomes very long. They are smaller than wrens, and have the same habit of cocking their tails. The bill is slender, and rather long. They sew leaves together to form receptacles for their nests, hence their popular name, With us the wild fig and the loquat are favourite trees. They are resident with us, though I think we get summer visitors in addition. They have a very wide distribution and breed both in the plains and the hills up to about 5,000 feet.

The call note, frequently repeated, is extraordinarily loud for such a small bird, Jerdon, (I think), puts it as: Too-whit! Too-whit! and sometimes Whit-too! Whit-to! and that well describes it. When calling, the cock shows two puffed up black marks on the sides of the throat. With us the breeding season lasts from April to September ; nests seem most common in August (eggs). The clutch is two or three, I have never found four in a wild nest, though I believe four is not uncommon in the plains.

Prinia socialis is a small grass warbler which also sometimes sews leaves together for its nest. A pair of these I took home in 1913, and they went to Mr. Bainbridge, to whom I must apologise for unintentionally calling them Tailor Birds, which I then thought they were, not the common one of course. Through the kindness of Mr. Appleby I got this pair in Lahore where both species are common and both are called Tailor Birds. They were nice little birds, but not a patch on *O. sutorius*, and more delicate too, I fancy. Our noisy friend is very hardy and easy to cater for. The pair about our house (one down t'other come on) have always been very noticeable in winter when they seem to subsist chiefly on gleanings from the bird table in the verandah and cake thrown out for them, though doubtless they eat wild medlar, and find a few small insects. At other seasons since we've had a pair in the aviary, the outside pair have been almost more noticeable than desirable; two pairs talking loudly at each other through the wire are a little trying so close to the house. In cage or aviary I should almost put down cake as their staple diet, not that I'd care to try them, on that alone but with insect food, of which they eat a deal too, they seem to require very little live stuff, except, of course, when breeding. They don't rush for mealworms, though quite glad to find one, especially a small one. They like things small, minute crumbs, where other birds have carried away fair-sized bits.

Our Bakloh pair were caught in December, 1913, when snow was on the ground. Given sheltered corners and boxes under eaves there would be no danger in keeping them in out-door aviaries at home. This pair have been left in charge of a very indifferent bird orderly, and, as you know, are doing well. I fancy they pair for life as they are generally seen in pairs at all seasons; the hens being shyer are sometimes not noticed. A pair round our bungalow in Kohat in the cold weather also had a hard time. Bird food seems scarcer there, the Bulbuls being reduced to cabbage or chrysanthemum, and not thriving on it, the White-eyes had Poinsettia, but all were uncommon glad of cake crumbs. I've never known White-eyes do this before. Yet these Tailor Birds did well. I've written more than I meant to, but it is a charming little bird. I wonder it is not taken home more often, but those from hot parts are not likely to be so hardy and the hot parts are the most get-at-able, so people may have tried and given up in disgust.

RED-BILLED BABBLERS (*Stachyrhidopsis ruficeps*) are about as nice bird for the aviary as one could wish; though not gaudy they are nicely marked and decidedly not "sparrow birds." At a short distance they look rather like Bib-Finches of a larger size and richer colouring. Sexes are practically alike but when together in the aviary sexes are easy to tell. I don't think I have ever met quite such inquisitive birds. An empty trap cage seems about the best trap, though if you have a bird to use as a decoy you will soon catch all the little flock, a pair at a time. They generally seem to go about in little flocks of three to five pairs with perhaps an odd bird. They have two call notes, both carrying a long way. One is a clear loud whistle of a few notes and the other a chirrupy sort of call I can't describe. I have heard more than I've seen, but they are decidedly uncommon with us. They seem to be *very* resident, if one may say so, as one flock has lived in my compound for many years and they don't seem to spread out much to breed, as the pairs seem to collect together even in the breeding season, which is curious, as my pairs used to fight fiercely through the wire, both against each other and against wild pairs outside. At the end of the season the flocks increase very considerably and then dwindle down to four or five pairs again; apparently the young go off to start flocks elsewhere. I've only found one nest, and that I left till I saw the young fly out. It was about 10 feet up in a scraggy thorny medlar bush (rather a tree) covered with wild roses and creeper, and looked more like a squirrel's nest (slightly gone wrong) than a bird's. I climbed up nearly all the way to look at it, when

I found it was a bird's nest. It was a large ball of leaves, creeper stems and grass, with a fairly large opening (probably smaller) at the side, rather under the rough roof, which seemed to be almost a thatching, and was composed of largish green leaves. This was early in August.

In the aviary pairs are devoted to each other and don't seem happy unless he (or she, but chiefly he), sees his mate every minute or two. My old cock practically meated off the hen, shewing her what bits of the insect food were the best ; for mealworms she wanted no teaching, and it was sometime before the cock would deny himself a mealworm for her. He used to hold the tit-bit in his bill very near the gape, tips of mandibles wide apart, and she'd take it sideways. The aviary is full of old boxes and cages, and he had a great time showing her round. I fancy she took to nesting too soon after troubles of meating off, and perhaps meating off unaided by the cock would have been a better one. The other pair seemed well enough and took to food soon, as did the only other one I've had (bar one hen that died with my bird orderly). This one I took home in 1913, and it went to Mr. Ezra. Nice as single birds, they are undoubtedly seen at their best in pairs in a roomy aviary; they should be able to stand winter out of doors at home easily.

My Breeding Experiences-1916.

By Mrs. C. A. Longdon.

I have been asked by the Editor to send an account of my breeding experiences, and though I have told him they are too heartrending to write he still wishes to have them, so I am complying and hope they may interest some of our members.

Pin-tailed Parrot-Finches (*Erythrura prasina*): In June last, I think it was, I bought from Mr. Arnold two beautiful pairs of this exquisite species ; a week or two afterwards I noticed one of the hens lying dead on the aviary floor. I sent it to Mr. Arnold and he kindly wrote back that the bird had died of egg-binding and most kindly sent me another hen. In August a pair went to nest in a large fir branch. They built a rather untidy, deep cup-shaped nest and the hen deposited therein four clear white eggs; she incubated steadily for about ten days and then I could not see her in the nest, she simply disappeared and I have never found her body—it was impossible for her to have got through the small mesh wire netting!

GOULDIAN FINCHES (*Poephila gouldiae*): Every aviculturist keeps these exquisite feathered gems of the far away antipodes; but they are the cause of much disappointment, for many bird-keepers have found it difficult to establish and pair such uncertain breeders; others again have done well with them, and been fortunate enough to secure breeding pairs. Unfortunately my experience with them has been none too happy, but one continues to keep them, in spite of every disappointment, for the sake of their lovely plumage; they make such a grand show in the aviary. I have a lovely pair of Red-heads, and they duly nested, and a clutch of eggs was laid and steadily incubated, but the eggs were infertile. I attribute this to the interference of an unmated Red-headed Finch (*Amadina erythrocephala*), for whom I failed to find a mate. The Gouldians made no further attempt.

CORDON BLEUS (*Estrilda phoenicotis*): These, too, are lovely feathered mites, and the record of their doings is a more encouraging one, the bright spot amid a record of failure and disaster, but I can give no details save the fact that five young ones were fully reared, and a lovely picture they and their parents made in the aviary.

CUBAN FINCHES (*Phonipara canora*): My hopes were raised, but alas! the hen died egg-bound.

AVADAVAT (*Sporaeginthus amandava*): Sold to me as a pair, but the supposed hen later came into colour, and I was the possessor of two, who could only be ornamental.

ROSELLA PARRAKEETS (*Platycercus eximius*): A very similar result to the preceding account. I possessed a fine hen and procured a "warranted cock." Both went to nest in a large barrel but no result, I feel sure both are hens, as there were six eggs and three of them were much smaller than the other three!

My other successes were a brood of Bullfinches, and one hybrid Hawfinch × Bullfinch successfully reared.

MY LAST AND WORST TRAGEDY: My beautiful pair of Swainson's Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus novae-hollandiae*) had nested and fully reared a young one, just ready to leave the nest when one awful stormy night the wind blew the cover off their aviary, the rain got into their barrel and when I went to feed them in the morning the cock had a fit and died, the young one in the barrel lived till the next day, the hen also died a few days later and I was left lamenting. I had got so fond of them, having procured them just before this terrible war broke out; they had become quite tame and never screamed at all. I feel heart-broken and ready to sell out and give up! I really love my birds and hope some time to be able to get another pair.

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Birds Feeding at Night.

BY M. R. TOMLINSON.

I am afraid this communication cannot be looked upon as an important contribution to the sum of knowledge regarding our hobby. However, as our esteemed editor is always asking for copy, I send these notes on the above subject, in the hope that they will be of interest to fellow-members.

Some years ago circumstances compelled me to find room in my bedroom for a week or two for a cage containing a pair of black-headed Mannikins. These birds undoubtedly fed every night when it was quite dark. It was a usual experience for me to be wakened by the sound of their movements. The cage was a home-made one,—a box with wire-netting front. A seed tin was hooked into the wire close to the end of the perch the birds slept on, in such position that they could feel for it and step on to it without difficulty. They did this practically every night, the movement being followed by the sound of seeds being cracked, accompanied by a little subdued murmuring as of conversation. Though the birds were able to step from the perch on to the tin, they were apparently never able to get back in the same way. Probably the perch was at a lower level, but memory is vague on the point. However, the same performance was gone through every night. When the birds had finished their meal they flung themselves down to the floor of the cage, and then, getting on to the wire netting side by side, made their way upwards by a series of jerks. There was always a long pause after each little jump, and it seemed a matter of minutes before they got to the level of the perch. Here they apparently felt about till one or the other found it, when they could be heard clambering into their old places and finally settling down with a little shake or two. The same little murmuring notes could occasionally be heard during the birds' upward progress, as though they were encouraging each other.

I may say that when I first heard the fluttering and the seed cracking, my idea was that a marauding mouse had got into the cage. This was not the case, however. I got up repeatedly and struck a light, and surprised the birds at various stages in their programme—sometimes in the actual act of feeding while perched on the tin, and sometimes at a later stage clinging on to the wire side by side.

It would appear from this that some birds will feed in the dark, if the circumstances are favourable to their doing so. The matter is not an unimportant one, from the point of view of those who keep small foreign birds, which have to undergo an unnaturally long fast during the dark nights of our winters.. It would be interesting to know whether any other members of the Club have any knowledge of similar happenings.

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Hybrid Breeding.

By W. Shore-Baily.

The crossing of various kinds of our British Finches with the Canary and other Serins, as well as with each other, has always been a popular and one might say a scientific hobby in this country. The cross-mating of the Foreign Birds, usually found in our aviaries, has, on the other hand, generally been arranged by the birds themselves, and the resultant hybrids have been more or less of a surprise to the owners of the aviaries in which they have occurred. Personally, I very much prefer to try and breed pure-bred birds (species), but, as every aviculturist knows where many birds are kept together fatalities are of fairly frequent occurrence, with the result that an undesirable number of widows, and widowers, are to be found amongst most mixed collections at the beginning of the breeding season

This year as I was unable to find them mates of their own kind, I put up for hybrid breeding Mealy × Red Rosellas, Red-faced × Madagascar Lovebirds, Necklace × Senegal Doves, and House x Cape Sparrows. Of these the Rosellas did not nest, possibly because the hen Rosella had lost the greater part of her beak, and consequently depended very largely for food upon what the cock gave her. The lovebirds had eggs which proved to be infertile. The doves were more successful, fully rearing four pairs of pretty young ones. The sparrows also succeeded in rearing a young one, after having failed two years in succession. I cannot give details of the time of incubation, etc., as they had nested so many times without any result that I had given up examining their nests. When I first noticed the young hybrid, it was strong on the wing, and able to fend for itself. In size it was nearly equal to the mother, which it very closely resembled, but the white patches on cheek and throat were absent. This bird lived some weeks, when it was killed by a cock Mealy Rosella. It proved on dissection to be a hen. The old hen again went to nest, and in August I found a new-born young one on the floor of the aviary, but a careful search failed to find any more in the coco-nut husks used as nests, and a day or two afterwards the hen sparrow was also picked up dead; the victim of another avian Hun.

The cock sparrow now turned his attention to a second hen, that was in the aviary, and duly persuaded her to take on household duties, with the result that, in the middle of October a second hybrid left the nest. This bird was quite

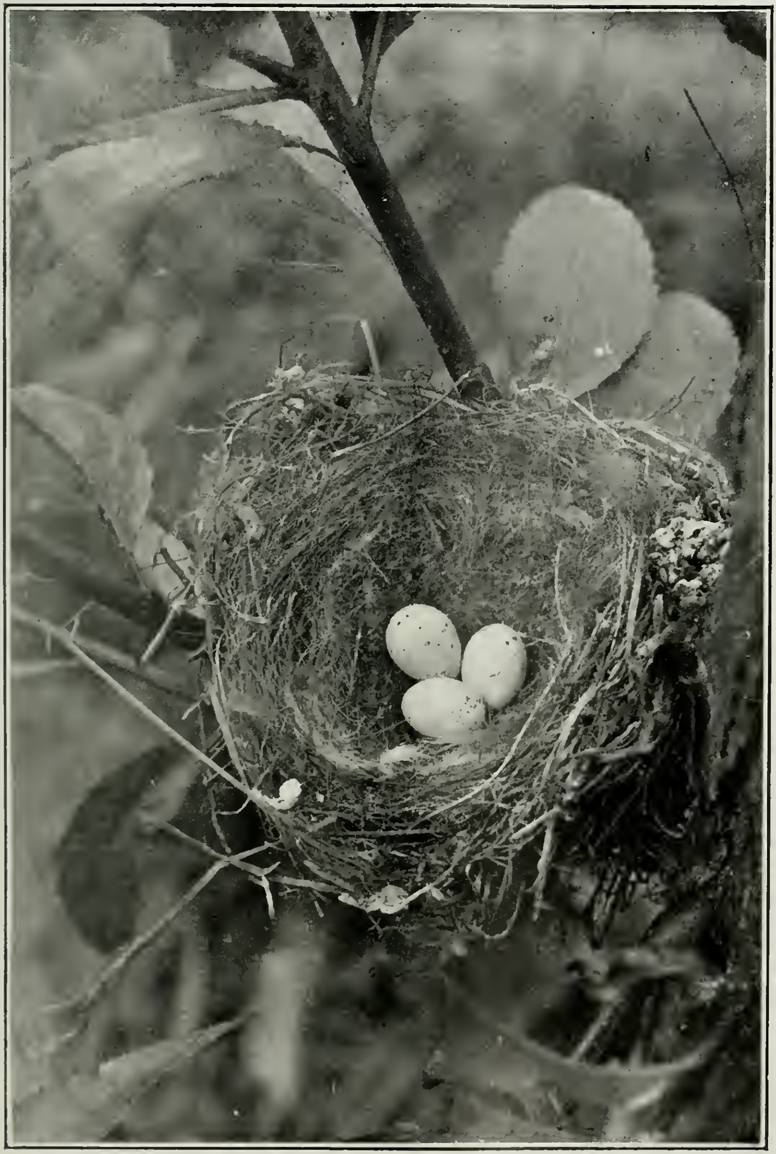
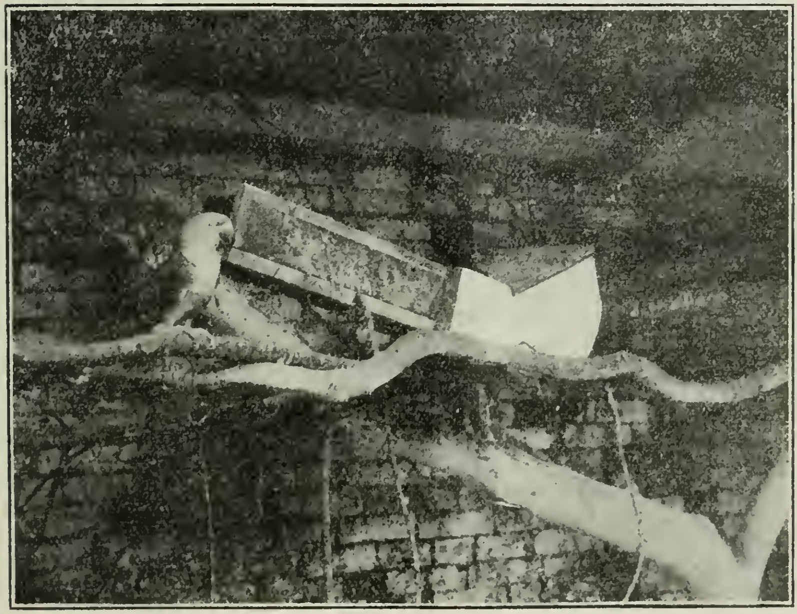


Photo W. Shore Baily.

Nest and Eggs of Sikhim Siskin.

different in colour to the first bird, being much more ruddy on the back; but for the fact that it was nearly twice as big, it might easily have been mistaken for an adult common hen Sparrow. I am hoping that it may meet with no accidents and turn out to be a male, as it might then be a rather pretty bird.

Other curious matings here this season were a cock Tovi with a hen Ring-neck Parrakeet. Three eggs were laid from this union, in one of my special nest-boxes (see figure) but all proved infertile. The cock Tovi, although less than half the size of the Ringneck and Moustache Parrakeets in the aviary with him, defended his mate most gallantly. He spent much of his time, whilst the hen was sitting, in the mouth of the nesting-box, from which coign of vantage he sallied forth against all and sundry that ventured near, screaming lustily the while. He regularly fed the hen whilst she was on the nest and it is a great pity that their joint efforts were not better rewarded.



Special Banjo-type Nest-box.

An equally curious marriage was that between a cock Diuca Finch and a hen Bay-winged Cow-bird. In this case I frequently saw the Diuca feeding the hen and mating taking place, but unfortunately, they delayed nesting operations until well into October, and the eggs were consequently infertile. One wonders what the young ones would have been like from such a curious union. Their nest was built in a conifer, and dead stalks of wild convolvulus were the principal material used in its construction. The two eggs were of the same size and colour, as those of our skylark. The hen did not sit very steadily, in spite of the fact that the cock was always in close attendance, so at the end of the month I removed the eggs for my collection.

Several years ago another hen Bay-wing Cowbird built a nest here, so it is evident that these birds are not so parasitical* in their habits, as their glossy cousins.

Other hybrids bred in these aviaries have been:

Greenfinch × Sikkhim Siskin—the same hen Siskin reared two fine young ones this year with a mate of her own species.

Spice Finch × Bib Finch.

Squamata × Californian Quail.

Olivaceous × Golden Weaver.

Necklace × Senegal Dove.

Accounts of all these happenings have already appeared in previous numbers of "B.N."

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From All Sources.

The following interesting cutting from the *Sydney Mail*, were sent by J. Hume, some time ago, and have been overlooked.—Ed.

White-fronted Chat and Family: E.C.M.—Walking along our creek some weeks ago, I saw the hen bird of the White-fronted Chat fly out of a furze bush, and alighting on the ground at some distance, simulate a broken wing with much cleverness. Knowing by this worn-out ruse that a nest must be near, I looked, and found it a few feet from the ground in the golden-flowering bush. It was a deep, cup-shaped structure, neatly woven of dry grasses, and smoothly lined with fibres and wool.

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* The Bay-winged Cowbird is not a parasitical species.—Ed.

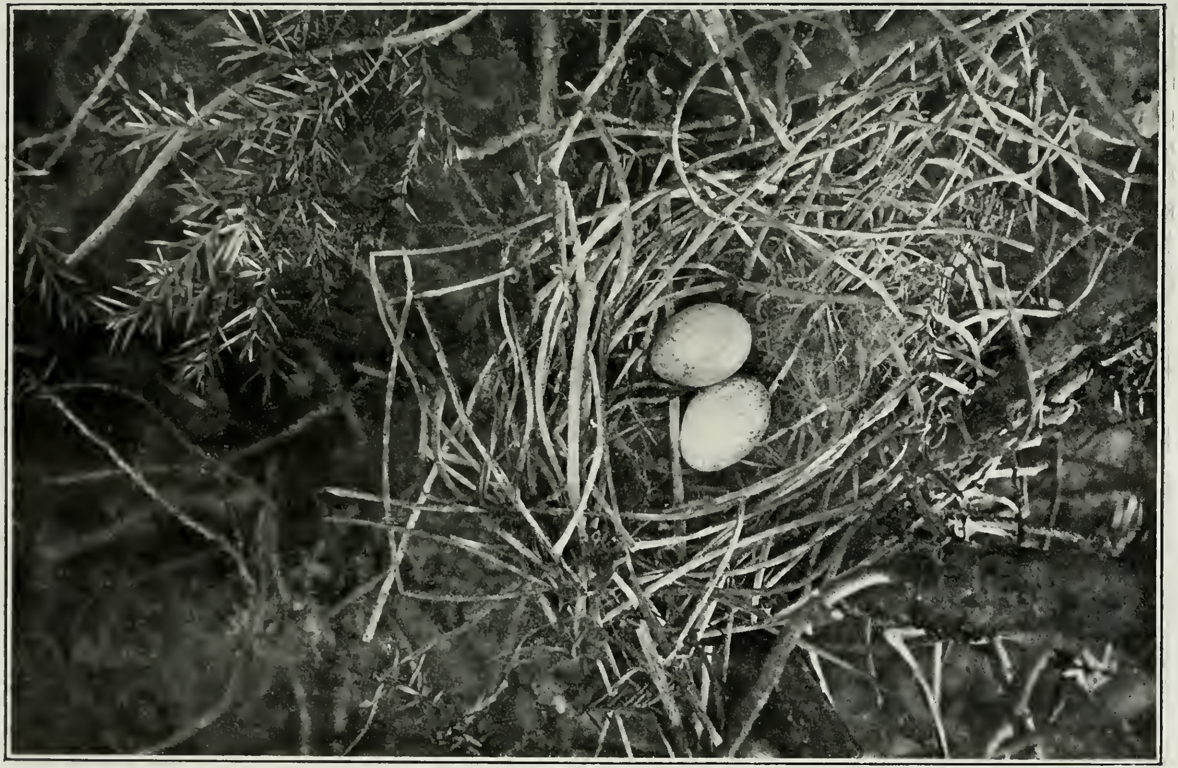

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Nest and Eggs of Dinca Finch × Bay-winged Cowbird.

In it were three pointed eggs, white with reddish-brown spots round the top. Six days later, I found two tiny, naked birds, newly hatched in their cradle; the third egg had not come out. The parents hovered anxiously above me, uttering their nasal "tomg" as I peeped into their nursery, Another week passed and the two nestlings had become a fluffy mass of grey down, and opened yellow-lined beaks at my approach, and two days later they had already brown wing feathers, white throats, and white-lined tails, and gazed at me with sharp, black eyes. On the following day, a warm, sunny one, the fledglings had left their nest, and were fluttering gaily among red-berried sweet-briars, in company with numerous other chats

NATIVE HENS. "Lancewood."—Periodically, and yet at no regular times, the Black-tailed Native Hens (*Microtribonyx ventralis*) come suddenly in swarms, appearing simultaneously in every creek and waterhole over hundreds of miles of country in the interior, and as suddenly disappearing after a sojourn of several weeks' duration, or even a couple of months. Sometimes it happens in dry weather, and again in good seasons, so no reason can be found for their migrations. They come in thousands, and are very tame, often never rising from the ground if disturbed, merely running across the intruder's path, then standing with their heavy tails bobbing up and down in a curious manner. All day they keep close about the water, camping in the long cane grass, but in the evening and morning they feed out in flocks, perhaps a quarter of a mile away. They rarely rise high above the ground in their flight, but run and fly alternately, and one wonders if they pursue this mode of progression when journeying from distant parts. When in such swarms they do much damage in gardens near the river banks, running over and trampling down all young plants, and in the same way the vegetation near the water is eaten and destroyed, while shallow water-holes are spoiled and fouled, with their continual bathing and running about in them. Although they seem busy running about all day, it is at night that they are most active, and come farther away from the lagoons. One hears their heavy flight, then a scurry as they alight in the gardens; while they often drop on iron-roofed houses mistaking the whiteness for water in the night (as do also wild ducks), and, attracted by the lights within, will even fly through open windows. In the heat of the day it is amusing to watch them bathing. They congregate on a slimy mudbank, just rising out of the water; and from it they run into shallows, rolling splashing and diving until thoroughly wet, when they return to preen and dry each feather, while some others start splashing. Then, when thoroughly satisfied—but it may take several dips before this end is reached—the whole group will go to sleep on the little island, heads under their wings; yet should any bird fly over them in an instant they are on the alert, and dart for shelter to the reedy banks. Although they are so active on land, they are strong swimmers, and move quickly through the water, in spite of having unwebbed feet. Without any warning they disappear as suddenly as they came, and years may pass before even an isolated flock of them be seen again.

THE PIRATE OF THE LAGOON.

In a valley of the Murrumbidgee there is a sheltered lagoon, which seems to have been specially designed by Nature for a breeding-place for the wild. It is onlya short sheet of water, but it has two islands which are gravelly and almost entirely concealed by masses of flowing wattle foliage and other indigenous shrubs; while all around and overhead spreading gums, which suggest that they have been brooding and whispering over the crystal waters here for countless centuries, ensure privacy, secrecy, and sanctuary for all the wild creatures who would take advantage of it; and scores of them did. Many families of birds made this sweet retreat—still apparently undiscovered of predatory mankind—their permanent home; others came and went after the manner of the human tourist. Among the former were a pair of exquisitely coloured kingfishers, whose brilliant, steely-blue plumage flashed in the sunshine like tongues of flame, as they darted from a dry branch to the glassy face of the waters, and then rose high into the air with the shrill plaintive note which with this bird may express either victory or defeat; a score or more of Wood and Black Duck and Mountain Teal; a staid family of Magpie Larks, which built their cosy mud nests on limbs hanging over the pools a couple of Black and White Fantails; and a few of the fantastic Coot-tribe. Many other birds passing high over the favoured spot were attracted to it. After a circle or two in the air, to make sure that this was not an artful decoy, and that no enemy lurked in the inviting cover which fringed the lagoon, they would alight and soon make themselves at home. At nightfall they would probably be there still, and acting as if they had no intention of leaving such a delectable home. During the night, as likely as not, the primitive silence which reigned would be pierced by shrill cries of terror— the cries which express the panic created by the attack of a mysterious and unidentifiable enemy—and in the morning the new-comers would have have vanished beyond the ken of that sylvan community. That there was some unknown terror associated with the water was indicated by the strange conduct of the permanent residents towards night. If on the water they would appear to be uneasy, alert, and apprehensive of some threatened danger not clearly manifested. After dark they would with one accord take to the land, and remain out of the water all night. One day, the father kingfisher, on the hunt for food for his family, was poised on a high limb with his eyes fixed intently on the surface of the lagoon, intent and ready to shoot like a blue streak of light on to any unwary creature wihch ventured too near the top. The kingfisher is all compactness of form and brilliancy of colour and action—being one of Nature's most harmonius products—and is only fearless when on the wing. Because of this trait, the bird is occasionally over venturesome. In this case the kingfisher detected some movement where a little wood floated, and descended like a fireball. He touched the water, apparently missed his intended prey, balanced himself for a second to get a better view, and then with a quick flurry, the waters closed over him before he had even time to utter a cry. The murder was so deftly and swiftly accomplished that it was noticed only by the quick eye of the old black duck, who had a nest of fluffy little ones hidden away in a tangle of undergrowth on one of the islands, and who had had so many fledglings disappear mysteriously under the water that she had become chronically watchful and suspicious. A week later, when the widowed kingfisher was still given to sitting on a dry branch and uttering her mourning note a veteran Pelican came out of space and, flopped into the water with a swirl which sent the water flying in every direction. He was a huge gaunt bird, travel-worn, and obviously just from a long and weary journey across the hungry desert places where such large voracious birds are apt to be famished. His great bill was two feet long, the blades being hard and wicked looking, and when he opened his horrible red cavern of a mouth the other waterfowl fled, screaming in fear. As soon as he had bathed himself, and got the dust of travel out of his feathers, the hungry pelican started to skirmish around the lagoon in quest of food, sailing along majestically, for all the world like a white-winged ship scudding gracefully before a half-gale, he would plunge his top-heavy head into the water, scoop up five or six pounds of mud at a time, and as quick as thought strain it off, retaining only the animal life it might contain. Round and round he sailed, devouring whatever he brought up with the avidity of a creature that had been fasting for a long time. Presently he paused as if listening ; then his muscular frame stiffened, and, partly rising, he made a mighty rush, and dived into the corner of the lagoon. When he reappeared his great wings were flapping furiously and beating the waters into such a flurry of foam that nothing could be distinctly made out for a time. In about five minutes the struggle was over, the bird righted himself, and there was an unmistakable glint of triumph and satisfaction in his eye as he closed his powerful jaws over the middle of a ten-pound cod. At last the pirate of the lagoon had met his master and his fate.

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Early Experiences.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

I have been strongly urged to write or supply a paper for young beginners, and also, that it may be adaptable to all beginners, especially for those whose space accommodation is only that of the ordinary semi-detached suburban villa. This would have come better from a beginner to a beginner, and several "first experiences" appeared in last volume of "Bird Notes," but, as something more than this is asked for, and as memory is still green as regards those early days I shall try and recall some of them, and also include others so that my readers need not experience some of the failures which fell to my lot.

Usually, when we have wise parents, one is not overburdened with that necessary adjunct, "coin of the realm," but again the wise parent will usually aid the youthful exchequer, to any reasonable extent, for what they think is not merely a passing whim; but whatever the difficulties in this respect, youthful zeal, energy, and industry usually does and can surmount them.

My very early experiences were those gained from grocer's "empties" converted into cages by own handiwork—this takes me back for a longer period than I now care to unduly think about, and I shall not refer to them, save to remark that they were fruitful in experience as to how to trap and keep my captures, which were further aided, as my bent was observed, by birthday and seasonable gifts of such books as then existed dealing with bird-keeping and money to help in my projects—with the writer his "fancy" has never wavered and his zeal is as keen, perhaps keener than it was over forty years ago—there now, I have "let the cat out of the bag," well it does not matter, there's nothing to be ashamed about in that fact.

Rightly or wrongly I do not propose to make an earlier beginning than for those who are well into their "teens," and who are fairly handy with saw, hammer and chisel, willing to do a little thinking for themselves, and avail themselves of any help that comes their way. To clear the way and save words I will here remark that all my earlier aviaries were self erected, aided by the help of parents and other of the family—for those *very fortunately placed* a little of one's best behaviour and the denying one's-self of the pleasure of youthful pranks, will secure much valuable help from gardener, os .er, etc., enough!

(*To be continued*).

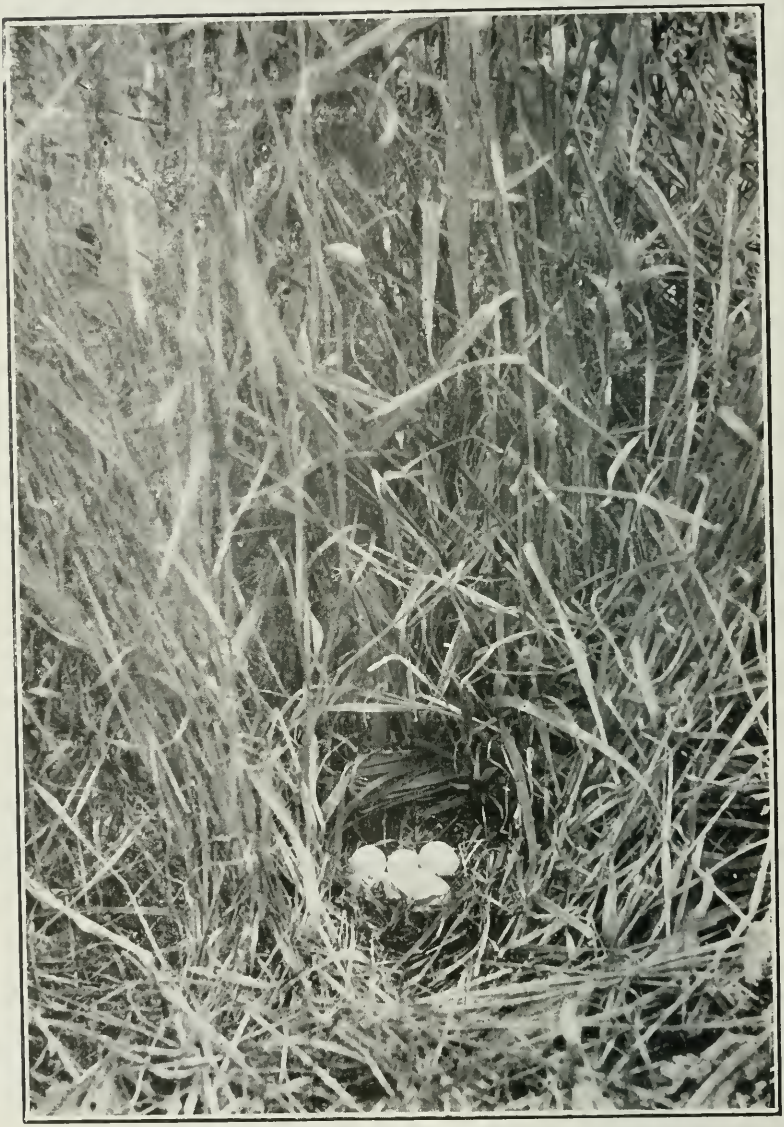

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Nest and Eggs of Black-breasted Mexican Quail.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Nesting of the Black-breasted Mexican Quail.

BY WM. SHORE BAILY.

In the Spring of 1913 I bought two pairs of this interesting species from Fockelmann, hoping to have success in breeding them in one of my aviaries. Although, from time to time, they have built rather neat little nests in various parts of their enclosure, this (1916) is the first year that either pair has actually nested, and I regret very much to have to record a failure in this case also.

Colinus (*Ortyx*) *pectoralis*, the Black-breasted Mexican Colin or Quail, very closely resembles its near relatives, the common "Bob-White" (*C. virginianus*), and the more frequently imported Cuban Quail (*C. cubanensis*). According to Ridgway there are no less than nine species of *Colinus* found in N. America; in addition to these nine other kinds of Crested Quail are also found there, in which are included the Californian, Squamata and Montezuma, all species fairly well known to English aviculturists. The White-cheeked Crested Quail, bred by Mr. W. E. Teschemaker, in 1910*, is found further south, in some of the Central American States. The hens of *Colinus* are very much alike, and I very much doubt if the ordinary observer could tell the difference between them. The cock *pectoralis* differs from *virginianus* and *cabanensis* in having much more black upon the breast and lower parts. The call note is very like the "Bob-White's" well known cry. Like these and their Californian cousins, they spend the greater portion of their time running about and perching on the branches of trees. My Black-breasts usually roost high up, but not invariably so.

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* Vide "B.N." Vol. 1, N.S, page 315.

In spring I separated them, removing one pair to a large and grassy aviary. The pair left in the old aviary built a nest early in the year, and for some time I daily inspected it, hoping to find eggs, but was disappointed. Since then they have built other nests, but no eggs have been laid. These nests were quite well constructed, being about the size of that of the blackbird.

The other pair quickly settled down to their new quarters, and about the middle of July I concluded the hen was nesting as I saw the cock bird alone so often. At the end of the month the hen disappeared entirely and I took it for granted that she was now incubating. All attempts at this time to find the nest failed, and on my return from my holiday a further search was equally unsuccessful, and I was reluctantly compelled to conclude that the hen had died, either egg-bound or by some other misadventure. The first week in September the cock also disappeared. This would be about six weeks from the time the hen was last seen, and I naturally concluded that he had now shared her fate, but to my surprise one morning at the end of the month, after an absence of nearly three weeks, there was Mr. Quail enjoying a sunbath on the top of a pile of faggots. In the evening he was again missing, so that there was only one thing to conclude, and that was, that he was sitting somewhere upon a clutch of eggs. The next morning my aviary-man and self had another good search for the nest, and, just as we were giving up in despair, the bird got up at our feet. The nest was a very pretty one, in a clump of grass at the foot of a willow-bush, and it contained eight eggs. The eggs were white, faintly blotched with grey and slightly smaller than those of the Californian Quail. They could not be described as fresh, as on my attempting to blow them for my collection they promptly exploded, and I only succeeded in saving one.

Of the wild life of this species but little has been published, but I imagine that it differs very little from that of its Arizona and Texan cousins. These are found on the arid prairies, where trees do not exist, and water is very scarce. They depend a great deal upon their legs to escape from their enemies and are difficult to make take wing; but once flushed

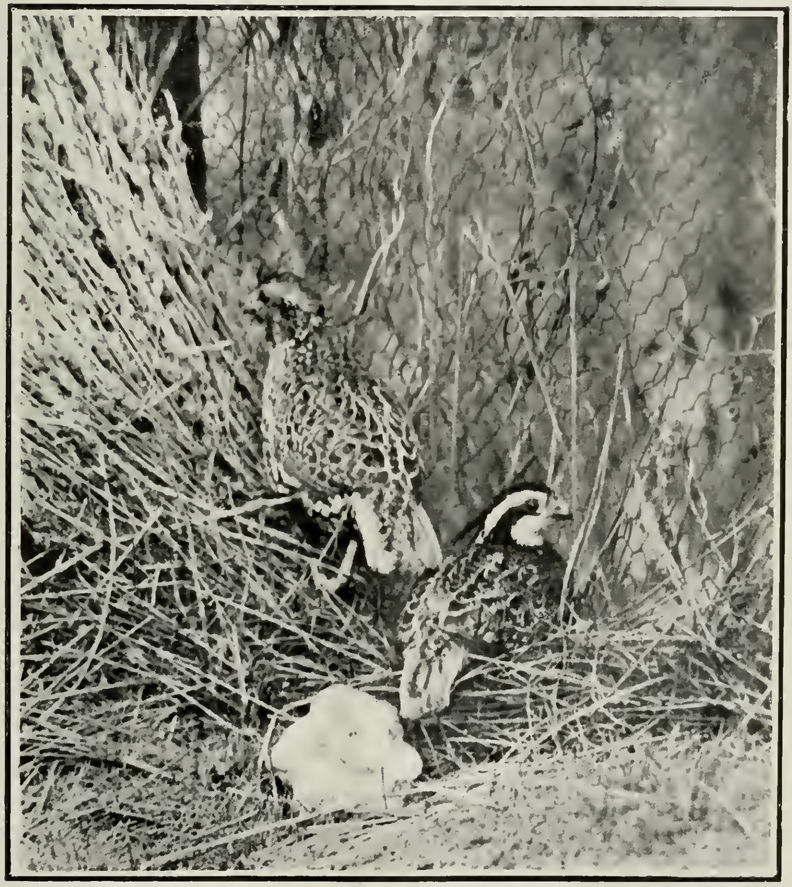


Photo W. Shore Baily.

Black-breasted Mexican Quail, ♂ and ♀.

they take cover under the sage bush or even squat upon the bare ground, and then give the sportsman some easy shots. I have no doubt that, even when found in canôns where there is any timber, they would tree in the same way as the other American Quail.

I have only met with them myself upon the prairies. The Californian Quail I have shot in hundreds, and these when found on the prairies act in just the same way as *Colinus*, but when in timber always make for the shelter of the trees, selecting evergreen oak for preference, where it is most difficult to spot them squatting upon the branches. When I have been hunting the large and handsome Mountain Quail (*O. pictus*) in the Sierras, I invariably found them take cover in the dead branches of the redwoods and other conifers, where they were quite invisible. I believe that it was the bird's habit to roost in the trees, but of this I cannot be certain.

Early Experiences.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S.

(*Continued from page* 20).

The Aviary: The site, of course, is the first important item, after one has considered a little over what one has got, or can get, to spend upon it—I will pause to say, *go slow*, even if one spends a year upon the construction of the aviary and its fittings, unlimited healthy pleasure is gained in the task and the pleasurable anticipation of the time when it should be filled with occupants, and also the finding out of their requirements; if you, my reader, are prepared to pass through such an experience, you have passed through the first stage essential to make the completed aviary a successful one. Now a word of warning, do not let your own zeal cause you to unduly bore those around you, for there is a point beyond which their interest *in you* may not carry them.

MATERIALS.

Wire Netting: For Finches, Waxbills, etc., this must be ot half-inch mesh, this is usually stocked in widths of one, one and a half, two, three and four feet. See that you get half-inch mesh as some makers' half-inch is fully five eighths of an inch in the mesh. If a quantity is required it is best to order it direct from the maker, and six feet wide. You can so obtain it in 25 or 50 yard rolls.

Framing: For this the required quantity of 2in. x 2in. and 2in. x 1in. spruce must be obtained.

Shed-walls: Double boards with felt between of either half-inch matchboarding or unplaned spruce boards of same thickness.

Stakes for frame uprights and internal standards (roof supports); chestnut is the best wood for these as it lasts well, when in the ground. These can be cheaply procured from any maker of garden rustic-work, pergolas, etc., and should be about four inches in diameter.

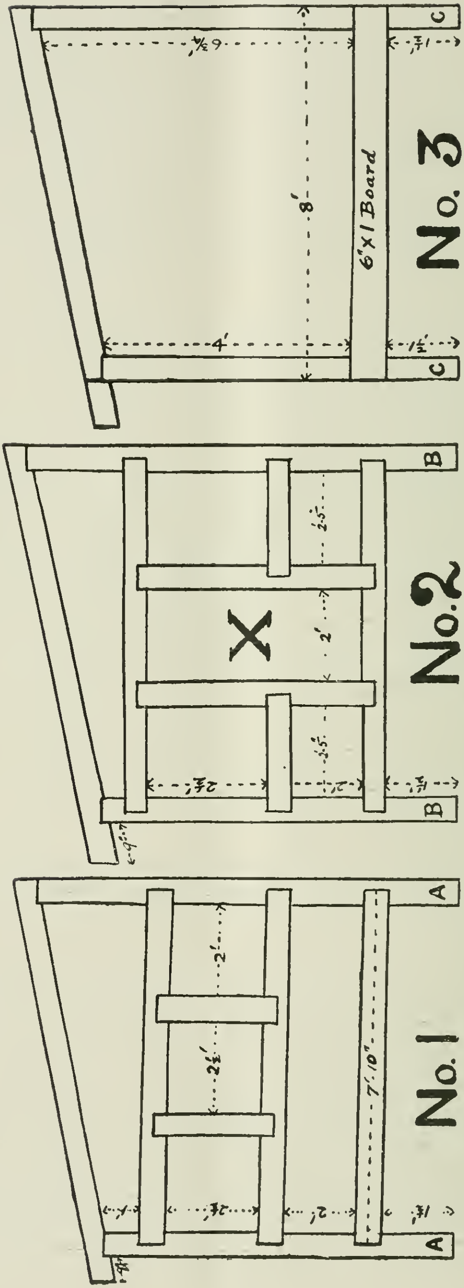
Corrugated iron sheets: If these are used for foundations, such can often be purchased from the local builder, second-hand, very cheaply.

All wood to go into the ground must first receive three coats of creosote, or the portion of stakes, etc., below ground level be soaked in it for not less than twenty-four hours.

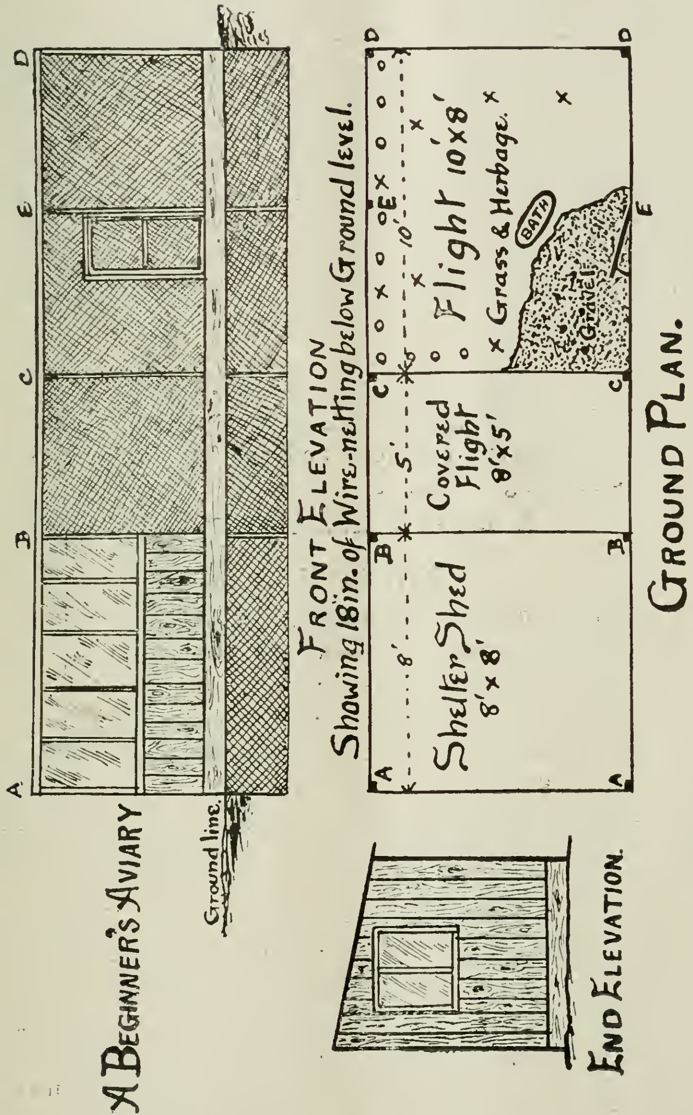
Well, having consulted the "powers that be" and chosen the site, which should have a S. or S.W. aspect, the next step is its preparation. First comes the foundation—vermin must be considered, if rats have ever been seen or heard of in your vicinity provision must be made to keep them out. This is not a difficult task; first dig a trench two feet deep all round the site, and put in wire netting, or better still corrugated iron sheets, fill in the trench, not forgetting to ram the soil down firmly; the netting or corrugated iron sheets must stand at least 3in. or 4in. above the ground level. The next step is to obtain some stakes, chestnut are best; these should be not less than four inches in diameter, and of a height sufficient to allow at least a foot above the head of an adult when in the aviary, say 7ft. above the ground, which would mean that stakes 8½ft. long would be required. If not already stripped of the bark, this must be the first step, the next is to obtain a pail of creosote and place the ends of the stakes that are to go into the ground therein to soak for about twenty-four hours or more, the pail will not be 2ft. deep, so with a brush you must rub in the creosote, at least three times, to that height; when dry, the stakes will be ready for use. Dig holes on the inside of your foundation six feet apart, place in the stakes and ram them firmly into position close against the foundation, netting or corrugated iron as the case may be, and then give them at least two coats of creosote. The next step will be to put a skirting board 9in. x 1in. all round, the boards first having received two coats of creosote, nailing this skirting on the outside of the stakes and covering up the portion of the netting or corrugated iron foundation above ground with it, next securely nail the netting or corrugated iron, to the skirting board. The next step will be to connect the tops of the upright chestnut stakes together by nailing lengths of 2in. x 2in. spruce on top of them. Having reached this stage we shall have to consider shelter accommodation, and before proceeding further we had better have one or two plans before us, or the written directions, however simply put, may appear complex without some such guidance; and the plans accompanying this instalment will, it is hoped achieve their purpose.

It will materially lessen cost of the construction if a suitable site can be found against some boundary wall or shed.

The foregoing must be taken as general or rather introductory, yet at the same time as necessary and essential for any aviary not erected against boundary walls, and all such aviaries should have the north and east sides solid, that is either of wood, or wood and glass—in all open country rats and similar pests are a possibility, and must be guarded against as indicated; other than brick or concrete, corrugated iron sheets are the most lasting for below ground protection, and even at present prices are fully as cheap, if not cheaper than thick gauge wire netting. As apology for minute, simple


No. 3
C
C
6¾'
8'
4'
1½'
1½'
6"×1 Board
No. 2
B
B
X
2.5'
2'
2.5'
2¾'
2'
1½'
6"
No. 1
A
A
2'
2½'
7' 10"
2¾'
2'
1½'

A BEGINNER'S AVIARY



A BEGINNER'S AVIARY

A
B
C
E
D
Ground line.
FRONT ELEVATION
Showing 18in. of Wire-netting below Ground level.
A
B
C
E
D
8'
5'
10'
Shelter Shed
8' x 8'
Covered Flight
8'x5'
Flight 10'x8'
Grass & Herbage.
BATH
Gravel
GROUND PLAN.
END ELEVATION.

detail, I must state that I am asked to write so that this series may be useful for youths. I will only add that however simple directions are, the users must do some *thinking* for themselves, or the result is certain to be unsatisfactory. One more word of warning: We have no right to inflict upon other members of the household an ugly structure and if second-hand (old but sound), building material is used, then extra labour should be expended in sorting out and arranging the material used, so that the result shall be NEAT—mere ornamentation and prettiness too often spoils an otherwise neat erection. Neatness and harmonising with its environment must be the points to be considered and arranged for, before a start is made or materials procured.

KEY TO GROUND PLAN.

O=Privet (evergreen variety) or similar bushes.
×=Evergreens (conifers, and aucubas for preference).
■=Framing standards.

A BEGINNER'S AVIARY.

MATERIALS.

2in. x 2in. spruce quartering for framing.
6in. x 1in. matchboarding for shelter shed.
Weather-boards for roofs.
9in. x 1in. for skirting board.
Wire-netting of half-inch mesh and of thick wire gauge.

All wood should receive two coats of creosote, "Solignum" or some similar preservative before use, and a final coat should be given when the structure is complete.

A preliminary study of the plans, should make all clear as to what has to be done. Plans and diagrams have been drawn to scale, but reduced in reproduction.

The first step is to cut four lengths of 2in. x 2in., 9ft. long, and then another four, 7½ft. long. The former are for the back uprights ("framing standards") marked A.B.C.D., the latter for the front uprights, similarly marked, and the lengths should be put aside in pairs of a long and short length, marking up the four pairs A.A., B.B., C.C., and D.D.

Next, you will require another five pieces of 2in. x 2in. each 7ft. 10in. long. Put these aside; but note, when marking out for cutting up, a square should be used, so as to insure the cut being perfectly straight and true, thus enabling good joints to be made when fitting together.

Now take the pair of lengths A.A., place them side by side, fasten them together temporarily, either by clamps or by nailing two short strips across them; mark off and cut out the recesses, 2in. by 1in. deep to receive three of the 7ft. 10in lengths, fit and nail together as shown in diagram No. 1, then fit on the top sloping piece. A tin of the wood preservative used should be kept to hand, and the newly cut joints brushed over with it, before being nailed together.

The lengths B.B. must be similarly dealt with, and with two of the 7ft. 10in. lengths, and other lengths cut to complete the section as shown in diagram No. 2.

The lengths C.C. are to be treated as A.A. and B.B., using an 8ft. length of 6in. by 1in. board, cutting this into the uprights its full depth, which means cutting a recess 6in. long by 1in. deep in the two uprights C.C., finally add the sloping top-piece (2in. square quartering), as shown in diagram No. 3.

The lengths D.D. are to be similarly fitted, and as this section is a replica of No. 3, with two exceptions, a diagram is not given, the exceptions being that 2in. square quartering is used in lieu of the 6in. by 1in. board, and the sloping top-piece does not extend beyond the front upright as in the other sections.

In fitting all these skeleton sections together, it will be best to work from the bottom, as the 18in. below bottom rail has, in each instance, to go into the ground.

Take the skeleton section A.A., and stretch wire netting (½in. mesh), over the bottom, 18in., securing same with staples, firmly to the uprights and cross-bar. Now take section D.D. and stretch wire netting over the whole of it. The wire netting is to be on the *outside* of the sections.

All these sections are now ready for fixing in position. To do this first dig out a narrow trench to correspond with A.A., and D.D. on ground plan; then dig out a similar trench right along the front, extending from A. to D. on plan; next dig out at the back, against the wall or building the aviary is being erected against, three holes 18in. deep in positions to correspond with B. and C. on plan. Next, get a piece of chalk and mark out the positions on the wall for the sections, commencing at the left with A., B. will be 8ft. distant, C another 3ft. farther on, and D. will be 10ft. distant from C Place the sections in position and tread down a little soil around them to keep them steady; now about twelve inches from the top drive home a six inch cut nail, through the wood into the wall, first boring a ¼in. hole through the wood,—at present only put one nail into each section to keep them in place, as the completion of the aviary would shake the nails loose again.

Now cut a 10ft. length of 2in. square quartering and nail it into position to connect the top of C. and D. together, and then nail a similar length between the uprights in line with the bottom rail of the sections C. and D.; follow this by similarly connecting up each of the other sections, and then nail similar lengths to similarly connect up all the sections at the top against the wall. A piece of 2in. square quartering must be fitted as at E. on "Front elevation" sketch; this need not go into the ground, but can be made to fit between the top and bottom rails, and nailed through from the top and below, or can be jointed in as the skeleton sections were. It will be best now to stretch the wire netting over the roof from C to D, and similarly over the front, carrying the front netting to the bottom of the trench. The netting must be securely fastened down with wire staples; three inches apart will suffice.

(*To be continued*).

Private Importation of Indian Birds in 1916.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

In the late summer of 1915, prior to sailing for India, my friend and fellow member, Mr. E. W. Harper, asked me if I would care to receive and distribute consignments of such Indian birds as he was able to secure—the main object of our mutual endeavour being to secure, in pairs, such species as were only to be very seldom obtained on the English market, and to offer them in first instances to the members of the Foreign Bird Club and Avicultural Society. While we were successful in landing many interesting species, most of which found homes in the aviaries of aviculturists belonging to the Societies named above—many specially wanted we were quite unable to obtain—the unsettled times being mainly responsible for this, nevertheless we were able to import the following species:

Avadavats.
Babblers, Jungle
Barbets, Blue-cheeked
Barbets, Coppersmith *
Barbets, Green
Bulbuls, Black Crested Yellow
Bulbuls, White-cheeked
Bulbuls, White-eared
Buntings, Red-headed
Calornis, Glossy
Chats, Pied Bush *
Choughs, Himalayan *
Coucal, Crow Pheasant or
Doves, Indian Bronze-winged
Drongo, Greater Racquet-tailed *
Finch, Afghan Rosy-winged
Finch, Nutmeg
Fruitsucker, Gold-fronted
Fruitsucker, Hardwick's
Goldfinches, Himalayan
Hornbills, Pied *
Laughing Thrushes, Rufous-chinned
Laughing Thrushes, Streaked *
Lorikeets, Scaly-breasted.
Lorikeets, Swainson's
Lory, Yellow-backed
Mynahs, Bank
Mynahs, Larger Hill
Nonpareils. Pintail
Nuns, Black-headed
Orioles, Golden
Orioles, Maroon
Parrakeets, Blossom-headed
Parrakeets, Javan Moustache
Parrakeets, Slaty-headed
Pigeons, Kokla Green Fruit
Pittas, Bengal
Quail, Button
Quail Button, (Lesser).
Quail Jungle Bush.
Quail, Rain.
Robin, Japanese.
Roller, Indian.
Shamas.
Silverbills, Indian.
Siskins, Himalayan.
Water-Hens, White-breasted.
White-eyes, Indian.
Whistling-Thrush, Him. Blue.

*Indicates no live arrivals.

Only in part was our ideal fulfilled in the above arrivals, nevertheless, some interesting birds have been distributed among our members, and the writer hopes that some interesting articles concerning them will appear later in the present volume. Some species were not obtainable in pairs, and, as already indicated, many, much wanted, species were unobtainable, but considering the unsettled times the result has been fairly satisfactory, and we shall hope to realise our ideal more fully at the close of this terrible war. I may perhaps add, that all were disposed of privately, excepting a crowd of 500 Avadavats and some Black-headed Nuns, Silverbills and Nutmeg Finches, nearly all of which were disposed of to Messrs. De Von and Co.; the balance going to Messrs. Derry and Toms.

I purpose making a few remarks concerning each species and including therewith a brief description and short notes of their wild habits, etc.

With the small finches I need not occupy space, as all these are so well known and I shall not include avadavats, nuns, silverbills, or nutmeg finches in the following notes:

INDIAN WHITE-EYES (*Zosterops palpebrosa*): Of these there were three live arrivals, all in good trim and very fit; they were at once claimed by one of our members, and are, I believe, still thriving. Several accounts of this species have appeared in back vols. of "B.N.", the writer was successful in breeding this species in 1913 and also the following year, and one (or more) young one was successfully reared in Lieut. Bainbridge's aviary last year. For the benefit of new readers I may state that this exquisite species has a wide range in India, but it has been found that those captured among the hills (Himalayas) are the hardier—a pair sent me by Major Perreau in 1913, which were captured near Bakloh, Punjab, passed the following winter successfully out of doors in my aviary at Mitcham. More than once Major Perreau has supplied notes of the wild life and also of them as occupants of his Bakloh aviaries, so I need only add that their wee, slender bodies are clothed with a garment of pale olive-green and bright yellow and soft grey, and a pure white ring round each eye. Jerdon calls this wee exquisite the White-eyed Tit. Its beauty and interest as an occupant of the aviary cannot be exaggerated.

HIMALAYAN OR RED-BILLED CHOUGHS (*Graculus eremita*, Linn.). Six of these were shipped, but unfortunately not one arrived alive. I was informed by the ship's steward that the extreme heat prevailing at the time was the cause of death. Both the European and Indian birds are considered to be identical though differing materially in size—therefore descriptive notes are uncalled for.

MAROON ORIOLES (*Oriolus traillii*). Four of this species were shipped, all in the young plumage, so that it was impossible to be absolutely certain of their sex. There were three survivors of these, and two, believed to be a pair, are now in the possession of one of our members, and will I trust do well with him.

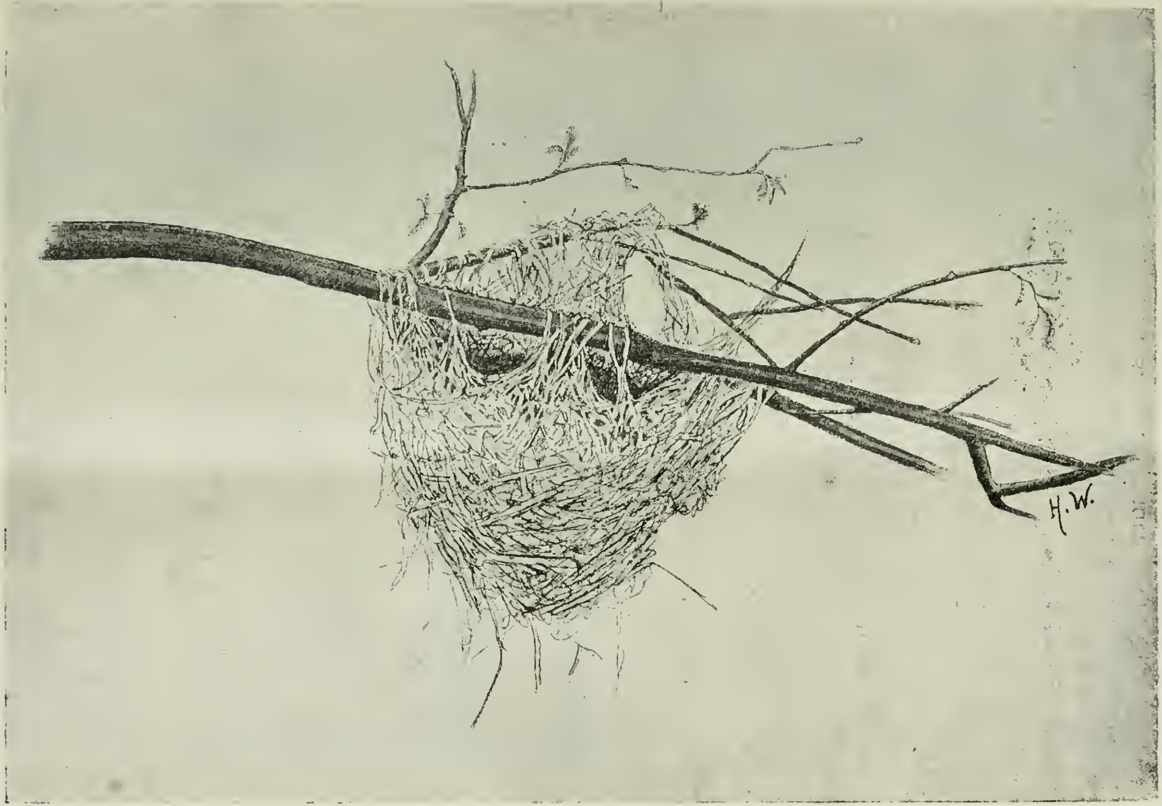
The adult male has the plumage mostly glistening maroon-red; the head, neck, and wings are glossy black.

It ranges the Himalayas up to 7,000 or 8,000 feet, but is a rare species and very locally distributed.

The nest of this Oriole is of the usual Oriole-type, and the eggs resemble those of *O. kundoo*.

In captivity, I found it to do well on insectile mixture, milk sop and fruit, and will take as many insects as one is disposed to supply. I have kept it in a smallish aviary (13 ft. × 10 ft. with a shelter 8 ft. ×8ft.) together with Bank Mynahs, Babblers, and Hill Mynahs, and all lived harmoniously together.

INDIAN ORIOLE (*Oriolus kundoo*, Sykes). Only one young bird was sent, and this had evidently had its wing broken when captured; it was very tame but unable to fly, and, though living for several months, practically no development took place and it ultimately succumbed—it was out of doors (August) when death took place. They are most attractive and beautiful birds, but must be associated only with birds as strong and agressive as themselves, and the amiable demeanour of an isolated, odd bird cannot qualify the above, as in the breeding season I should consider them as possibly dangerous to birds even larger than themselves.



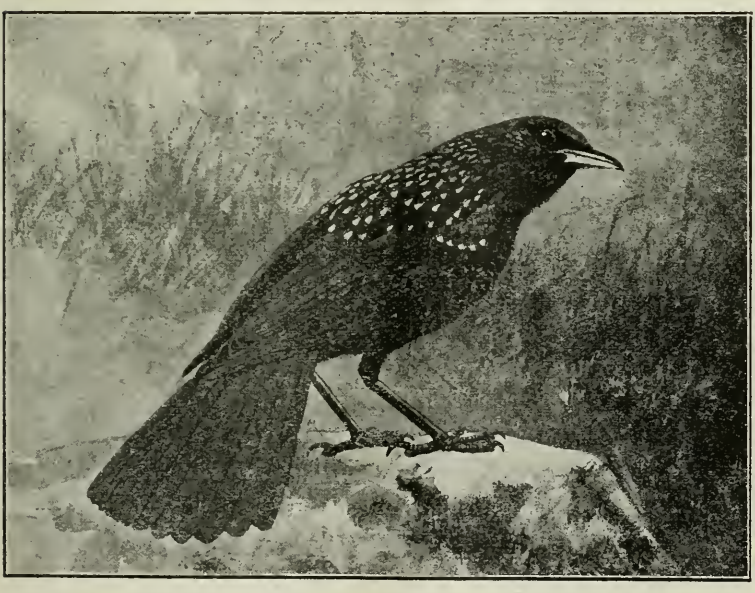
Nest of Indian Golden Oriole (*O.o. Kundoo*).

Adult ♂: Rich yellow, with the lores and eye region black, tail and wings black, with most of the larger feathers tipped or margined with yellow. Length 9½ inches, of which the tail measures 3⅝ inches.

The adult ♀ differs from her mate in having the upper parts slightly suffused with green.

It ranges over the whole peninsula of India, frequenting well wooded districts, gardens, groves of trees and avenues, feeding on fruit (figs and mulberries), caterpillars and all soft-bodied insects. The breeding season is from May to August; the nest is constructed of grass and strips of bark, and suspended like a cradle by the sides from the fork of a leafy branch of a large tree. The eggs, three or four, are white, spotted with black or reddish brown.

HIMALAYAN BLUE WHISTLING-THRUSH (*Myiophoneus temmincki*, Vigors): Two young birds of this species were shipped, one of which arrived alive, and in due course passed into the possession of one of our members, with whom it is



From life by H. Goodchild.

doing well. During the few weeks it remained with me, it agreed well with Mynahs, Orioles, etc., in the smallish out-door aviary already referred to. The above popular name is not the most appropriate, that used by Jerdon is better, viz.: Yellow-billed Whistling Thrush, which is certainly distinctive. The species has been known to the London Zoo for many years and to aviculturists generally, though but few have been imported, and often these have gone begging! It is not all that have the accommodation for so large or vigorous a bird.

An adult in fine plumage is a sight to be long remembered especially if seen in an out-door aviary under the play of light—the colour of the whole plumage is rich, very dark blue, except the lores, and forehead, which are black; the fore-crown is cobalt-blue, and the wings and tail are overlaid with the same hue; each feather of the body plumage is tipped with white; bill yellow, with the base and culmen of upper mandible blackish. Total length 13½ inches of which the tail measures 5½.

Its home is the majestic Himalayas, up to 11,000 feet. It frequents hill-streams and torrents, perching on rocks and crags and feeding largely on snails. It breeds from April to June, constructing a massive cup-shaped nest of roots and moss in a crevice of a rock, or in the root of some tree in the river-bed, near or under a waterfall, and laying from three to five eggs, which are pale grey or green, speckled with pink and brown, and measure 1.42 by 1 inch.

(*To be continued*).

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From Far and Near

The following cuttings, sent by Rev. G. H. Raynor, are reprinted from *The Times* of January 10th and 13th respectively, with our compliments and thanks to the Editor.—Ed.

A SECOND YEAR'S OBSERVATIONS.

Letters from men I know, and from others I do not, have induced me to write a second article on "Birds at the Front," after another spring and summer of the war in the North of France, where I have met all my old bird friends of 1915, and two or three fresh ones.

I had hoped that the buzzards and hen harriers which wintered in the Pas-de-Calais would stay to nest, but, though I saw some as late as May. I never found a nest of either, and am not sure if they bred there.

About the middle of March a large migration of waders occurred, all going, of course, north over the Pas-de-Calais uplands. Peewits; golden plover, curlew, and dunlin could be seen passing, and occasionally resting every day for a fortnight, and also two or three flocks of geese, followed on March 19th by the first chiff-chaff.

In 1915 I failed to see a single wood wren, but last winter I noticed a wood which seemed to me a typical wood wren covert, and I was not disappointed, for three pairs of them came to it, and no doubt nested, but I never could find a woodwren's nest and only know one man who can. It was a noisy wood in the summer, being full of golden orioles and other songsters of various sorts and sizes. The only nest of a golden oriole I saw last summer was in an alder, and very easy to see, though I confess I walked under it and stared at it many a time before I saw it, and then had to be shown it by a man who had never seen one before. The nest is at least one size too small for the bird, and must be very uncomfortable to sit in. That was a red-letter day, for over and above the oriole's nest I caught ten trout on a dry fly in the afternoon, and saw one of my troop teams win a football cup in the evening.

Hoopoes: Mr. Warde Fowler, in a very kind notice of my last article in his "Essays in Brief for War Time," has a gentle crow over me with regard to the hoopoe. I can now crow back, for I found the valley of that now famous river the Ancre full of hoopoes and of a mysterious silent bird which flitted from reed bed to reed bed on one of the marshy ponds so common in the valley, the haunt of great and small reed warblers. The reeds were too thick to get a sight of this bird except when flying and then only for a moment, but after several days of watching, I got my telescope on to a pair apparently courting in the air over the centre of the pond. They were what I had suspected them to be, little bitterns, and if only I had had a boat I think I could have found the nest. I noticed a strange thing about the reed warbler, a very excellent description of which is given in Mr. Warde Fowler's essays. Though his home is in the reed beds, he repeatedly hunts for food for his young on the short green grass of the paths and the river bank, and not on the reeds at all.

The indifference of birds and animals to the noise and horrors of war is now too well known to be worth writing about, but there are certainly six creatures, all observing a friendly neutrality, which are more than indifferent, for they positively revel in the life of the trenches, and will be heartily sorry when it is over. They are owls, "Brown," and the "Little," kestrels, rats, mice, and lice. No doubt the rats and mice would be happier still without the birds they have attracted, but all six have increased beyond measure, and their life is undoubtedly richer and more luxurious than it ever was in times of peace. On the Somme battlefield another hawk might often be seen last summer hunting low over the cornfields and that wide dull stretch of brown battle ground, the Montague's harrier. I never found his nesting site there, but it was probably in the marshes of the Somme or the Ancre. Nearer the coast there is a stretch of marsh between the sandhills and the cultivated land, and at this place I snatched three evenings "Montague" hunting.

MONTAGUES: There were several cocks hawking about from time to time over the marsh, but it was hard to find a place to sit down and spy from, owing to the flatness of the country and the numbers of large bushes which obstructed one's view. On the first evening I saw two cocks, met in the air by two hens, and undoubtedly the latter were fed by their husbands, but I was unable definitely to mark either of the hens down. Still, I had a rough idea of the probable whereabouts of the nest of one of them, and on the second evening, with a friend, I distinctly saw through the telescope the cock come over the place where I believed the hen to be sitting and thrust out its claw, in which was something—I believe a lizard. In a moment she was up and circling towards him. When just below and downwind of him, she turned a back somersault, while he dropped his prey through the air for 6ft. or 10ft. from his hand into hers. It was done without effort on the part of either, and looked the easiest thing in the world, and so I suppose it is, for I saw the same performance on several occasions, and she never missed or looked like missing her dinner. Sometimes the gift was made high in the air, sometimes near the ground, but the thrusting out of the foot to show the prize and the method of dropping it from the cock to the hen were always the same. When she had got it she planed down as I first thought to the nest, but I was wrong, for after waiting for five minutes, during which time she no doubt ate her dinner, apparently by a pool of water, in order to wash her beak and feet, she rose again, and after several evolutions lit in the marsh away from the water.

Very, very carefully we marked the spot by this twig, that yellow flower, and other minute details. We had walked to within ten yards when she rose in fright and noisy rage from her nest of four eggs in the grass, and while we looked at them she never ceased her cries, and circled continuously above us. The nest of flattened blades of grass and uninteresting-looking eggs had an artificial appearance; they reminded me of a clutch of Easter eggs I was once unfortunate enough to find in a haycock at a children's party, to the undoing of my stomach, for they were bad. There are plenty of such nests to be seen at the proper season in confectioners' shop windows. The bird returned in circles to the nest before we were 300 yards away, and I saw the whole process of the feeding of theh en and also the nest on the following evening. These harriers are apparently very punctual at meals, for this bird was fed at 5-25 to a minute on each of the three evenings, and I would advise anyone in search of a nest to post himself, with a good glass, at 5-15 at an advantageous spot not too near where he believes the nest to be. I say not too near, because the cock is much more shy, though less bad-tempered, than the hen. Heaven grant that no egg-clutcher benefits by this advice!

A Grasshopper-Warbler. On this same lucky day, while I was plodding through the marsh, a little rich-brown creature raced away from under the tussock I had stepped on. It seemed to run too fast for a mouse, and in the base of the tussock were the perfect nest and six rich-coloured eggs of a grasshopper warbler—the first I had ever seen, though there are many grasshopper warblers in this world who must have cursed me for my inquisitiveness about their homes. While writing this article I have come across what seem to me two cases of birds lost on migration southwards On November 8, at Paris-Plage there were a pair of black redstarts on the sea front, and on November 9, near the same place, I saw a flock of eight Norfolk plover who had, on the best authority, been in the same locality for several days. The latter birds breed on the downs by the Ancre in a few places.

Some day, no doubt, in times of peace crowds of all nationalities among them many who have fought, will visit the battlefields of the Western front, but if I come back I shall avoid the ruined towns and battered trenches, and refresh pleasanter memories of birds that I have known and trout that I have failed to catch.

LORD LUCAS'S BIRD PRESERVE.

The *Eastern Daily Press* states that the lands and premises in Norfolk which, as reported in the *Times* on Wednesday, are bequeathed to the Hon. Ivo Grenfell under the will of Lord Lucas, include what is known as the Whiteslea estate, in the parishes of Hickling and Catfield.

This property, between 2,000 and 3,000 acres in extent, was acquired about 10 years ago by Lord Lucas, Viscount Grey, the Hon. E. S. Montagu, and Mr. B. Russell, all keenly interested in bird life, in order to provide protection for rarer kinds of birds. Elaborate precautions were once taken for months to preserve from disturbance some young birds of a very rare species. Careful study is also made of the habits of birds and a log-book is kept by the head-keeper in which he records his observations. The active management had been controlled by Lord Lucas through his agents. He used to stay at Whiteslea Lodge, and was often joined there by Viscount Grey and his other friends. Many other distinguished people have also been there as guests, among them the late Russian Ambassador.

Correspondence.

HYBRID HAWFINCH × BULLFINCH.

Sir,—In answer to your enquiry I fear I can give but little evidence save a few bare facts, owing to the storm disaster in my aviary, involving the escape of many birds, one of which was the hybrid hawfinch.

Owing to being much occupied last year my birds were left very much to themselves, proper feeding and cleaning being practically the only attention they received. This leaves me in the position of only being able to say that such and such young were reared by their being noted on the wing or at the food trays.

In the aviary were a pair of Bullfinches, and a cock Hawfinch; the former reared a brood, and the latter a single young one, of which, from its appearance, I am certain only the hen bullfinch could have been the mother.

The young hybrid resembled the hawfinch in regard to the markings of its plumage, but the bullfinch as to size, and was totally different in appearance to the young pure-bred bullfinches. In shape also it favoured the bullfinch, but had the large head and beak of the hawfinch. It had no pink on the breast and was marked like the hawfinch.

The only points of confirmation I can give are: that the pair of bullfinches and the odd cock hawfinch always associated together, both before nesting and afterwards, and I assume the young hybrid and bullfinches formed one brood, which was jointly reared by the three adults named above.

The large, unnoticed hole in the netting through which the hybrid, its father, and a hen bullfinch escaped, was an echo of the terrible storm at the end of last year—and these extra losses add much, to the tale of woe I told in the last issue of our journal. At last I have been able to get some one to make the damage good.

I do not know whether I have told you enough about the hybrid, but, never expecting such, I took no notice of the bullfinches' nesting arrangements until I saw the young one flying about, quite different from the other young bullfinches, yet forming one of the same family party.

Guildford, Surrey, 17-1-'17. (Mrs. C. A. Longdon).

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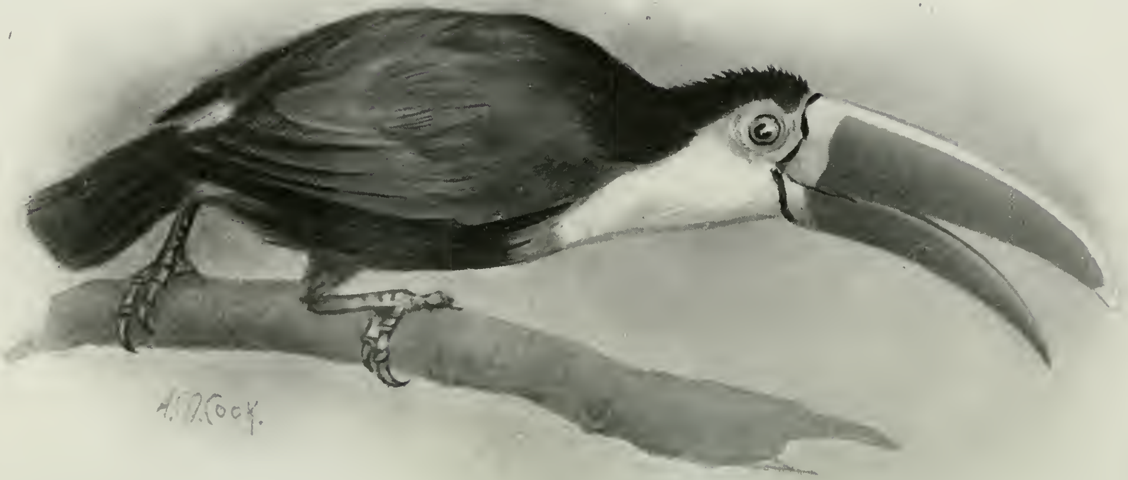
Book Notices and Reviews

MENAGERIE CLUB YEAR BOOK, 1916.—While not so bulky as its predecessors, the general excellence, both as to get-up and contents, is fully maintained. It contains practical articles, illustrated by exquisite photo-reproductions, on: Nubian Ibex; Rhinoceroses; Rearing Lion Cubs by Hand; Nesting of Jardine's Pigmy Owl; The Otter as a Pet; The Common Hippopotamus; and Oryx Capensis. It is published at 2s. 6d. net, and is obtainable from the Hon. Sec., G Tyrwhitt-Drake, F.Z.S., Cobtree Manor, Maidstone.



Cuvier's Toucan (*Ramphastos cuvieri.*)

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Some Toucans.

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

Toucans are birds that arrest the attention at once, and my own and many others' experience is that they receive more notice from visitors than any other species. I have only kept one or two species, but these have proved most interesting birds, and in a roomy flight their antics are most amusing, though in captivity I have never come across any that proved as interesting as those described by Mr. Walter Goodfellow in his "Naturalist's Notes in Ecuador" in the "Avicultural Magazine," for 1899-1900, and as many of our readers have not access thereto, I am quoting his most interesting description of them almost *in extenso*:

"'I think I must always have been fond of Toucans . . . . "on in life I became possessed of a charming Sulphur-breasted Toucan, "which only increased my love for these birds, so when I went out to "South America, for the first time two years ago, and saw them in "their native forests, my joy knew no bounds. How well I remember, "the very first ones we saw! It was in Colombia, in that beautiful "but unhealthy belt of country between the Pacific and the first range "of the Andes. We were travelling on to Cali, and had just gone "through our first night of what we *then* thought roughing it. . . . "We had wasted a lot of time during that first day's ride gazing at "birds and nature around us. So we were left alone and all our baggage and "camp-beds far on ahead of us; the consequence was that when night "overtook us we were forced to stop at a miserable shanty, and lay "on a bare plank bed and used our riding boots as pillows. Our "supper consisted of a small tin of sardines which we happened to have "with us. Not being inured to such discomforts, our aching bones "refused to allow us to sleep, so we were up and had saddled our "horses when it was scarcely daylight, and started off on empty stomachs. "As the sun rose multitudes of birds came from every tree and bush, "and were shaking the dew from their feathers and drying themselves in the sunshine. Brilliant green Kingfishers....Tyrants....Hangnests......Blue-winged Lovebirds....little pale grey Doves, ran along the paths, and then six large birds flew, one behind the other, from the top of a high tree, just across the valley and into another tree just over our heads. Yes! they were Toucans, there was no mistaking them with their long bills pointing downwards. At once hunger and discomfort were forgotten and I was glad that circumstances had caused us to start so early that morning; but what a different flight they had to what I imagined! In a cage one thinks them somewhat clumsy, but there was no clumsiness in the graceful flight across the valley, and at the same time it was unlike that of any other bird How I feasted my eyes on them as they gamboled among the branches of the great trees above us. I say gamboled, for that is what they were doing, chasing each other from branch to branch, and snapping their beaks and making a peculiar rattling noise in their throats. One would throw a fruit into the air, and before it could catch it again, another would seize it without any intention of swallowing it, but pass it on like boys would a ball. I have never seen any other birds play together like a number of Toucans will, and on many occasions since, I have watched them doing the same thing.

"These birds are also high fliers, and, although they never take a long flight at one time, they generally pass along well above the tops of the forest trees. They rise in the air, and come down where they intend settling with a long swoop. The wings look particularly short when flying, and bills conspicuous. They go in small flocks straggling one behind the other, the older birds (judging by the length of bill), taking the lead. As a rule, they are not early birds at getting up in the mornings, and are late to retire of an evening. I have often seen them about when it was nearly dark. During the hot hours of the day they retire to the shady depths of the forest, and are never seen. Those of the genus *Rhamphastus* are dwellers in the highest trees; while *Pteroglossus* may be found in more open spaces, and often in banana plantations round human habitations. On one occasion I saw a *Pteroglossus* on the ground eating a fallen banana, but a *Rhamphastus* never. Then there are the little Green Toucans,* *Aulacorhampus*, which may be said to live among the undergrowth of the forests, and are never seen in trees. These birds seem to be solitary, for I never saw even a pair together. Unless you happen to see them settle, it is most difficult to detect them in the forests, for, unlike other Toucans they will sit motionless for a long time. Often I have had them pointed out within seven or eight yards of me, and could not detect them sometimes before my guide lost all patience.

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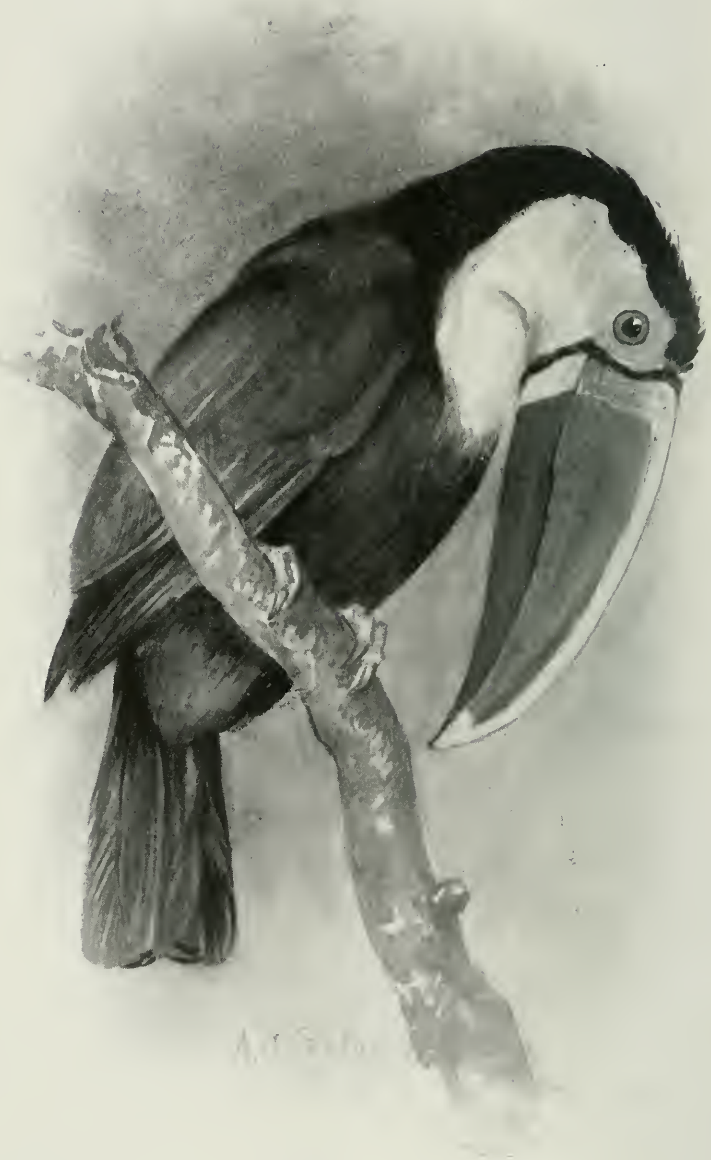
*Most charming aviary birds.—Ed.



Cuvier's Toucan *(Rhamphastos cuvieri.)*

"One has always read in books that Toucans eat the eggs and "young of other birds. Although it may be true, I never personally "saw anything to confirm this. On the contrary there was a tree just "by our hut, at Nanegal, to which the Toucans constantly resorted, and "the small birds never seemed in the least alarmed at their presence "among them. On the Napo I once saw a flock of Toucans in a tree, "from every branch of which were hanging the nests of the *Cassicus* "*persicus*, the latter birds passed to and from their nests without "taking any apparent notice of the Toucans; and I never saw a nest "of any of the *Icteridae* but which was far too long for a Toucan's "bill to reach the eggs. I am aware in captivity these birds, as a rule "evince a decided preference for meat, and I have known them to kill "and eat a small bird, but it might be an unnatural taste caused by "confinement. My old Sulphur-breasted Toucan was never a sinner in "this way. His aviary was divided off from the aviary of the smaller "fruit-eating birds by wire netting; they were constantly clinging to the "wire and, had he been so minded, nothing could have been easier than "for him to have pulled them through, but far from doing that, he "used to pick out all the choicest morsels from his food pan, and "feed them through the meshes. I am certain that one Bulbul relied "solely on him for all it ate, and I never saw it feed from the pan "itself. Often still smaller birds got into the aviary with the Toucan, "and whenever they did so he would offer them food."

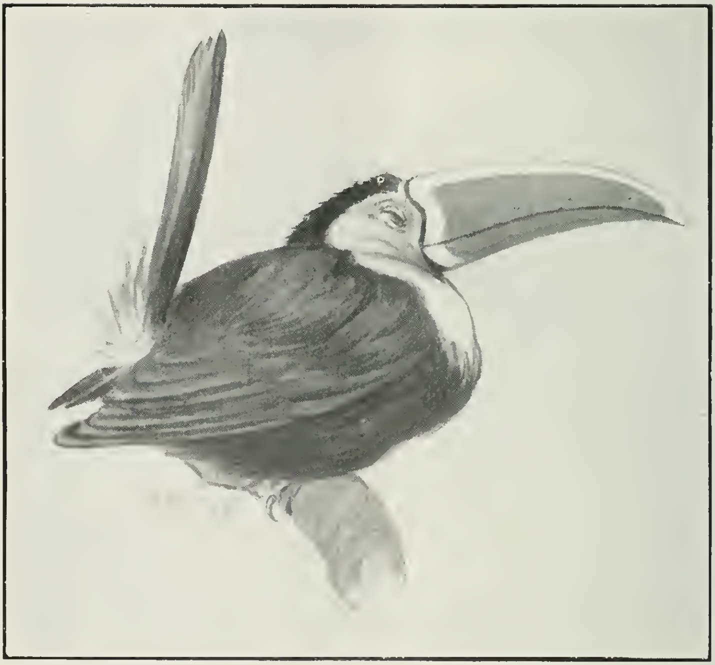
The above fascinating account forms a fitting introduction to our notes of these interesting birds. My latest Toucan was a Lesser Sulphur-breasted (a pair of this species nested in their flight in the Small Birds' House at the London Zoo and fed a squab for a fortnight or longer, but did not fully rear it), it lived with me for several years at Mitcham, and at the present time is on deposit at the Zoo, pending the completion of my aviary accommodation. I found it a most amusing and interesting bird, it was nicknamed the Parson, from its food table resembling a reading desk, and its habit of perching thereupon and sending forth its harsh braying, trumpeting sort of call.

I cannot give it so good a character as Mr. Goodfellow does his bird, for in the next flight separated from the Toucan by half-inch mesh netting, were a flock of Redpolls; my Toucan damaged their toes considerably, and one or two which found their way, *via* mice burrows, into the Toucan's flight paid for their temerity with their lives, as also did many mice. I removed the Redpolls and put a pair of Gold-fronted Fruitsuckers in the flight, and while the Toucan never molested them, neither did he fraternise with them in any way.

Though their call note (song!) is not exactly a musical one, more resembling a bray than a song, I did not find it objectionable or very freely indulged in, it was mostly in the evening that he was musically inclined.

As regards food; in a state of nature they feed on fruits and berries, but from the fondness of my bird for animal food (mealworms, beetles, etc.) I deduce that they also take any small reptiles and insects available. In captivity individual birds have very varied tastes, some are omnivorous and take freely of such provender as boiled rice, minced meat (I do not favour this, except very occasionally), milk sop, ripe fruit of all kinds, especially cherries in the season, minced plums, bananas, sweet apples, etc. The Sulphur-breasted referred to above was most fastidious in its tastes, and almost entirely lived upon milk-sop and various fruits as in season, supplemented with currants and sultana rasins—cherries were swallowed whole and the stones ejected afterwards. It did not favour the ground, though it decended thereto when it dropped any of its food to recover same, and spent the bulk of its restful periods perched at the top of its flight. It would take as many mealworms as I cared to supply; I never supplied raw meat as its captures of mice kept it going for this commodity. I certainly am looking forward to the time when it will again be housed in my aviary.

My bird was kept in a well lighted flight 10ft. x 4ft., with a height rising from 5½ft. to 9ft. Here the bird lived all the year round. From November to March inclusive a small "Beatrice" oil-stove burnt in the passage between the flights, but this little heat only just took the sting off the cold and the thermometer was often as low as 35 deg. F. in the early morning, much lower during sharp spells, but my Sulphur-breast had often broken the ice on the water and had his bath before I went to feed it. He remained very fit during the years I kept him and was never ailing the whole period. His only blemish being two feathers, which would insist on curling



At Rest.

outwards, on one of his wings—each moult they were so renewed, and if pulled were reproduced in the same abnormal manner.

We are again indebted to Mrs. A. M. Cook for the loan of the drawings illustrating this article of *Rhamphastus cuvieri*). In response to my request Mr. C. F. Leach, who possess a fine specimen of *R. culminatus* a very similar species to *cuvieri*, has very kindly sent some notes of his bird.

BY C. F. LEACH, F.Z.S.

Rhamphastus cuvieri and *R. culminatus*.

These two species—there are about sixty species—are almost identical in marking and colouration. The former is much larger and has a much longer beak in proportion to its size.

Both species have the crown of the head, back, wings, abdomen, and tail black; upper tail-coverts lemon-yellow; under tail-coverts deep orange-scarlet; feet blue-grey.

The beak of *R. cuvieri* is almost eight inches long and is a brownish colour, with a pale yellowish line along the top. The beak of *R. culminatus* is only about four inches long and black with rich mahogany-coloured markings, and a greenish-yellow line along the top. The eye is large and black, and is surrounded by a naked space of highly coloured bluish-lilac.

These species are not so noisy as some, particularly *R. dicolorus* which is one of the commonest and more attractive in colour. When alarmed by the presence of strangers they utter sharp, yelping noises which are distracting ; they show no fear of their attendant. When they go to roost they elevate their tails over their backs.

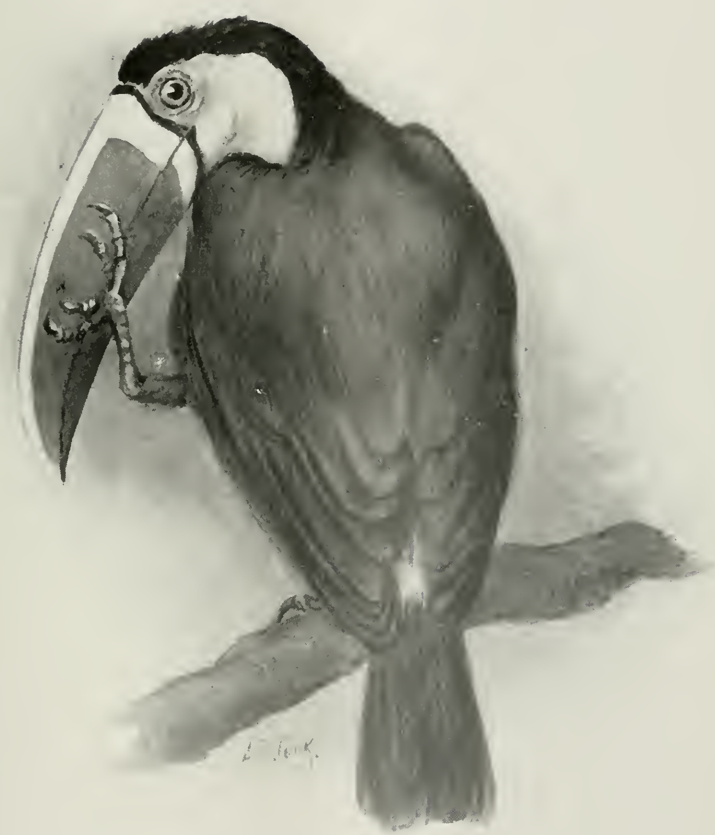
These birds are expensive to house and feed ; they usually have good appetites.

Coming principally from the equator, they require an aviary with a temperature of not less than 60 F., and free from draughts I keep my birds in an aviary heated with hot water pipes, divided off into compartments 8ft. by 8ft., or 8ft. by 6ft., with a height of 7ft. in front, and 11ft. at the back, with a corridor in front of the compartments. Each compartment is suitable for one or more of the larger species. It is not advisable to mix the species. If kept in larger aviaries, the birds are liable to become very wild and are then likely to injure themselves—I have lost some in this way. In smaller places they lack the opportunity of bathing to which they are very partial. In winter they should not be allowed to have very cold water, as they easily contract a chill, and their recovery is hopeless.

In the type of aviary described above the birds become exceedingly tame, and allow themselves to be handled, in fact some of them appreciate the attention of their atendant.

In a natural state no doubt, Toucans feed almost entirely on fruit and berries, but in captivity this is not practicable especially at the present time in this country —fortunately they take kindly to most kinds of food, they are practically omnivorous. I put aside all faulty and small potatoes, carrots, and fruit from the garden, not useable for human consuption, which when boiled in their skins and pounded up with a little soft-bills' mixture is readily eaten ; this, with house scraps, young mice and sparrows in season, appears to keep the birds in perfect condition.

They are ravenous for some kinds of fruit, particularly bananas, grapes and cherries.



Cuvier's Toucan (*Ramphastos cuvieri.*)

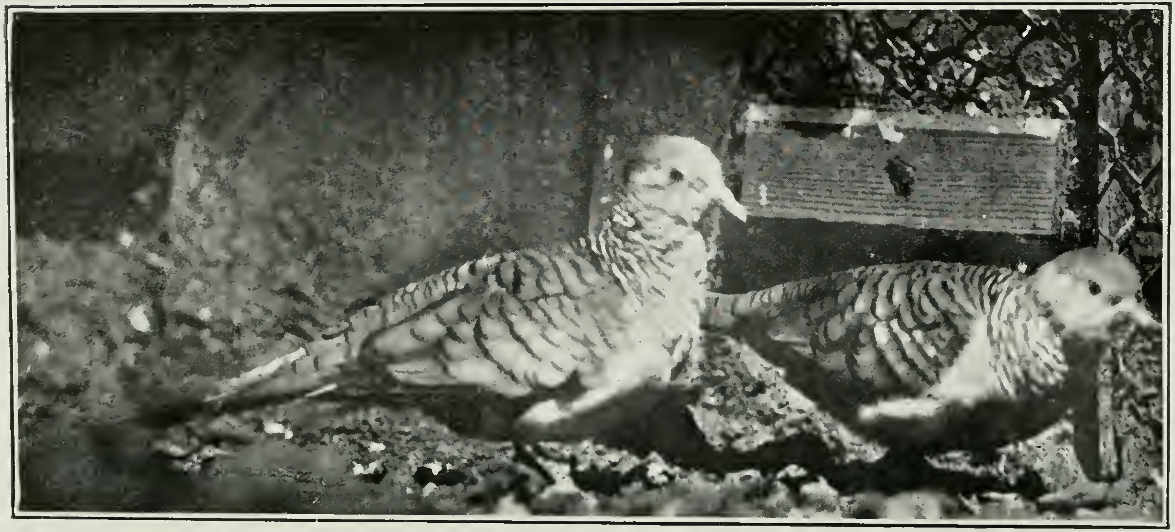


Photo E. O. Page.

Peaceful Doves.

Some Doves I Have Kept.

BY WM. SHORE BAILY.

Many of our members have no doubt had in their aviaries from time to time a larger and more varied selection of the *Columbidae* than the writer has kept and, it is with some hesitation that I venture to send in these few notes on the different species kept here during the last ten years. The first species I obtained were pairs of Brush Bronze-wings and Auritas. These came from our member Miss R. Alderson The Brush Bronze-wings turned out to be two hens, and both of them laid their first season. Miss Alderson sent me a cock in the place of one of the hens, and the other I still have. Soon after this I purchased from Messrs. Payne and Wallace pairs of Bronze-neck and Peaceful Doves, thus commencing my first year of bird keeping with four pairs of these pretty creatures. Other Doves I have kept are Zebra, Diamond, Cape Masked, Zenaida, White-winged, Senegal, Necklace, Half-collared, Crested, Bronze-wing, Violet, White-crowned, Bleeding Heart, and lately, through the kindness of our Editor, Indian Green Fruit-Pigeons, and Green-winged Doves.

PEACEFUL DOVE (*Geopelia tranquilla*). These were the first to fully rear young with me. They built their nest fifteen feet from the ground, so I saw very little of the rearing operations. How these birds got their name I am at a loss to understand, as there is nothing peaceful about my birds. My little cock in the breeding season will tackle birds much larger than himself. He has now been with me nine years. At one time very common and cheap, they are now seldom imported, and I have been unable to secure a hen for several years.

ZEBRA DOVE (*Geopelia striata*). These are very like their peaceful cousins, but are a trifle larger. They can be easily distinguished by the absence of the chestnut-coloured underwing coverts. These little birds have bred with me, and also nested high up. On one occasion they used the mouth of one of my Parrot nesting-boxes as a site for their flimsy nest. The young ones reared did not live long with me. I fancy that they must have been injured in leaving the nest. A drop of fifteen feet is rather serious for such tender little creatures. Zebra Doves are usually easily procurable at a low price, and are quite worth keeping as they are very pretty. Two years ago I mated a hen Zebra to my cock Peaceful thinking that such closely related birds would be likely to produce fertile hybrids, but unfortunately the hen did not lay.

BRONZE-NECK DOVE. Another pretty Eastern bird, whose scientific name I do not know. They are about half as big again as the Zebra and Peaceful, which they very closely resemble in general colour. Both male and female have a band of iridescent feathers around the neck of the same copper shade as the wing feathers of the Australian Bronzewings. These birds nested with me and two or three pairs of young ones were fully reared. They resembled their parents in all respects except their neck feathers, which lacked the brilliant copper colour. Dr. Butler mentions a Bronzeneck Dove (*Zenaida auriculata*) in his book, which comes from South America, but this is a totally different species. I can find no mention of my birds in his book, or in that of Miss Alderson, so I take it that they must be very rarely imported.

DIAMOND DOVE (*Geopelia cuneata*). This delightful little Australian is my favourite amongst all the Doves. Their attractive colouring and pretty ways always attract the notice of visitors, few of whom can believe that such tiny birds can be Doves at all. With me, they always nest very freely, but some years with better results than in others. I think that care should be taken that an occasional change of blood is introduced. It is also very important to see that they have no nesting material in the winter and early spring, or losses of hens from egg-binding will result. It may even be better to separate the sexes. These birds may be allowed to winter out, if the aviary has a good shelter, but personally I prefer

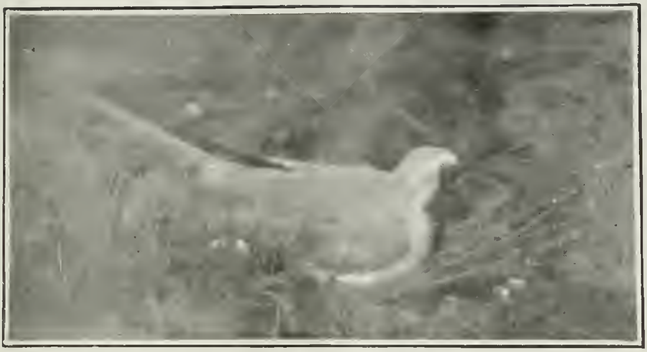


Photo W. Shore Baily.

Cock Masked Dove Incubating.

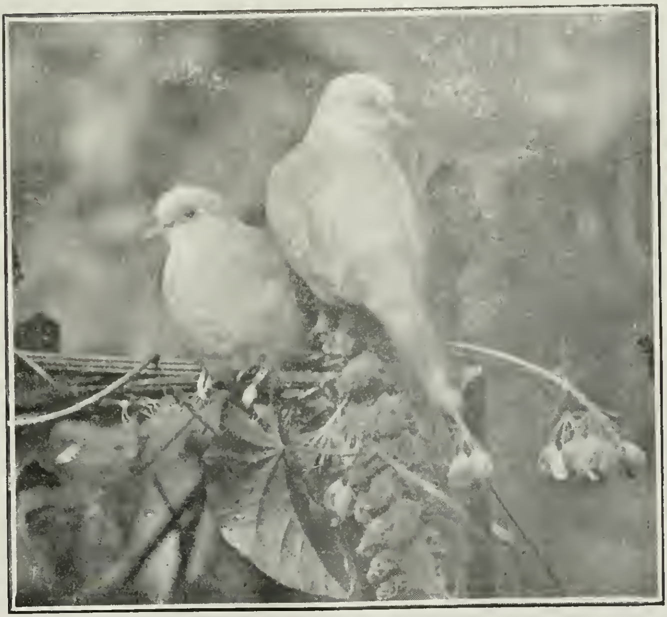


Photo W. Shore Baily.

Young Diamond Doves.

to bring them indoors as they seem happier than they are in an out-door aviary when the weather is very cold and wet.

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Masked Doves Brooding Young.

CAPE MASKED DOVE (*Aena capensis*). A pretty South African in which the sexes are markedly different. In size it is very little bigger than the last named bird, and it is consequently a favourite in aviaries where bigger birds cannot be kept. My birds nested twice last year, one young one being hatched each time. They failed, however to fully rear them. Mr. Bright succeeded in breeding this species last season. I do not think that they have often been bred here. They appear to be quite hardy, and my birds seem none the worse for 26 degrees of frost.

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Masked Doves Brooding Young.

AURITA AND ZENAIDA DOVES (*Zenaida aurita* and *Z. amabilis*). Two pretty Doves from the West Indies. I have not had true pairs of either of these species, but in 1913 a cock *Aurita* mated with a hen *amabilis* and two pairs of young ones were reared. These birds are very much alike and must be very closely related: I think that it is likely that the young hybrids would be fertile.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (*Melopelia leucoptera*). This is another closely allied West Indian species. I do not consider it so attractive as either of the other Western Doves. I have had four or five specimens. They made no attempt to nest but I am inclined to think I had not true pairs.

SENEGAL DOVE (*Turtur senegalensis*). The Palm Dove is a common bird, amongst aviculturists, and it breeds very freely in captivity. It is about the same size as the three preceding species. With me it has never bred, as all my cocks have turned out to be hens. I have, however, bred a number of very pretty hybrids from one of these hens, mated with a Necklace cock. In size the young hybrids equal the Senegal, which they also resemble in general colour, but they have the very handsome spotted collar of their male parent. I shall try this season to get them to interbreed. It will be interesing to see if hybrids from birds coming from such widely separated countries should prove to be fertile.

NECKLACE DOVE (*Turtur tigrinus*). These are a Burmese variety, and are larger and more handsome than any of those I have already mentioned. I have often wondered why they are not more popular with aviculturalists. It may be due to their somewhat quarrelsome disposition, which makes it unsafe to keep any of the smaller *Columbidae* in the same aviary with them. In a well-planted aviary they look strikingly handsome, with their wide collars of black and white spots, showing up against the greenery. Moreover they are good breeders, and one may expect to raise four or five lots of young ones every season from one pair of adults. It is advisable, however, to separate the sexes in October or November, as if left together the hens are apt to die of egg-binding.

(*To be concluded*).

Early Experiences.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S.

(*Continued from page* 30).

The next part is covering in the shelter shed; first covering up the end AA, nailing matchboarding over the framing, leaving only the window space open (see End Elevation sketch), covering it in from the top to lowest rail. Next cover in with matchboarding BB, so that the smooth surface of boards faces flight, and the projections of framing are all to the inside, leaving uncovered the open doorway marked X on diagram No. 2. This leaves the front A to B to be covered in. First you must get some lengths of 1in. square wood, and nail these all round the lower opening, so that they form a rebate about one inch deep; cut lengths of matchboarding, fit and nail securely. All that remains to be done here is to get some lengths of sashbar and fix them in position, equi-distant from each other, ready to receive the glass; also fit one or two pieces into the window opening of A.A. to complete.

Now we come to the roof. If the exchequer will run to it, first nail on matchboarding from A to C, then cover this with roofing felt, and lastly weather boards. Cut the boards the required length, and commence to nail on from the front; keep the thick edge towards you, and allow each board to overlap about ¾in.

There now only remains to fit in the door and complete the net-work. Cut a length of one inch square wood, 4ft. long and another 2ft. 1in. long, and nail them together at right angles, place it in position at back of netting to the left of upright E (see front elevation sketch); staple the netting thereto and nail the ends to upright and bottom rail; cut out the netting covering opening, make skeleton door to fit the gap, cover it with netting and hinge in place. Next cover in with netting the space B. to C., carrying netting to bottom of trench, also fit netting below bottom rail, A. to B.

carry same to bottom of trench. All that now remains to be done is to put the 9in. by 1in. skirting boards, three inches to go below ground level, across the end and along the front (see elevation sketches).

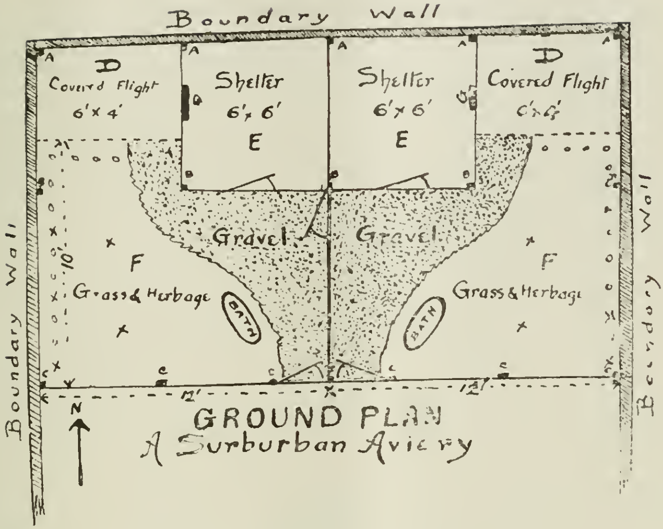
To complete the structure, fill in trench, and ram down the earth; give all woodwork another coat of wood preservative; drive in extra nails and holdfasts to secure the structure firmly to the wall. Give wire netting a coat of "Bicycle Black," and point along top of roof with cement, and the aviary will only need furnishing and planting.

If one wishes, or has to, use old materials, then these must be carefully sorted out and the boards (for instance those from empty cases and the like) selected and cut to size, according to space they have to fill and the cross rails as in the skeleton sections 1.2.3.4., placed at such distances as will accommodate them—a better effect will be gained if they fit between the rails instead of being nailed over same. Strips can easily be nailed to receive them, and if a little care be taken in fitting together, a very nice effect can be made; but all the material must be properly assembled before a start is made, or windows, etc., when fitted in place will have a very patchy appearance. I have seen several aviaries so constructed which have equalled in appearance those constructed entirely of new materials—otherwise the method of procedure is the same.

◆

A SUBURBAN AVIARY.

The site of a similar aviary of my own was formed by enclosing with wire netting of half-inch mesh the bottom 12ft. of a 24ft. wide garden, enclosed by walls and building on three sides only the front and top needed to be enclosed with netting, and the shelters and covered flights were at the back of the lean-to type, but with the roof sloping from front to back. Very few details will be required, as the preparation of the site was described on pages 24-25 of last issue, and the ground plan should make lengthy details unnecessary.


Boundary Wall
A
D
Covered Flight
6'x 4'
Shelter
6'x 6'
E
Shelter
6'x 6'
E
D
Covered Flight
6'x 6'
Gravel
Gravel
F
Grass & Herbage
Bath
Bath
F
Grass & Herbage
10'
12'
12'
C
B
N
Boundary Wall
Boundary Wall
GROUND PLAN
A Surburban Aviary

KEY TO GROUND PLAN.

O=Privet (evergreen variety) or similar bushes.
×=Evergreens (conifers and aucubas for preference).
■=Framing Standards.

MATERIALS.

A.A.A.A.A.—Framing standards each 7½ft. long of 2in x 2in. spruce, of which 18 inches goes into the ground.

B.B.B.B.B.—Framing standards, each 9ft. long, of same material as above.

C.C.C.C.C.—Front standards, each of 9ft. long (chestnut stakes recommended for these) of which 18 inches goes into the ground.

D.D.—Covered Flights, both entirely open to the flight, with the exception of a 11in. x ¾in. board across the top, to check rain driving in immediately under the roof.

E.E.—Shelters, the partion between the two being boarded to prevent draught.

F.F.—Open Flights, each 12ft. x 8ft.

G.G.—Drop windows, each 2ft. square, placed 30 inches above ground level; hinged at bottom—by these windows the birds have ingress and egress to and from the shelters. The methods of procedure are as follows:

(1). To fix the group of standards marked A and secure them against the back wall. The portion of all standards which go into the ground should be well soaked in creosote or some other preservative.

(2). Fix the group of standards marked B on plan at the distances given on plan.

(3). Fix the front standards marked C on plan.

(4). Connect the front standards by nailing a length or lengths of 2in. x 2in. quartering across the top of them; then connect up C to B similarly at each end, and. finally connect up B to A, *i.e.* nail a piece of 2in. x 2in. quartering from each B to A standard, this will supply the slope of the roof for shelters and covered flights.

(5). It will be best now to cover in the roof with boards, as this will supply a storing place for material while erection is going on if bad weather intervenes. A glance at ground plan will show that for a distance of 4ft., the roof must be entirely boarded in at the back, and then the middle 12ft. must be boards right up to the standards B. If then covered with felt and given a coat of tar biennially, it will keep quite waterproof.

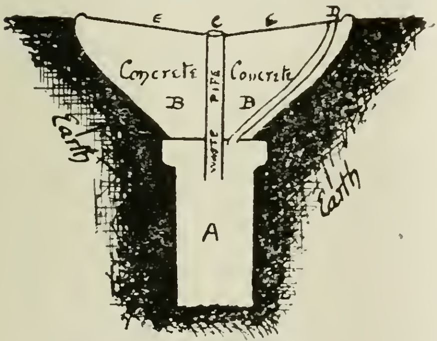
(6). The next step is to board in the shelters with match-boarding at the front and sides, after fixing in pieces of quartering to form the door and window openings, and as crosspieces to nail the matching to. Note: if half-glass doors be used for these shelters, no front windows will be required, as the door lights and the side windows will supply ample light.

(7). Now nail right along the front an 11in. x 1in. skirting board, 4in. of which will go below ground level. Put in cross-pieces to form the door openings and finally stretch half-inch mesh wire-netting over the whole of the front and top of flights. Make frames to fill door openings, cover same with netting and hinge in place.

All that now remains to complete the aviary is to plant and arrange the flights as indicated on plan, and to furnish the shelters and covered flights with an abundance of twiggy branches, food hoppers, and nest receptacles. All exterior wood work should be stained with creosote (light brown "Solignum" is even better), and the netting given a coat of "Bicycle Black." Any portion of the structure which rises above boundary wall, must be filled in with netting or boards, according to whether it faces open flight or shelters.

Note: The partition between the shelters must be match-boarding, but the partition between the flights is wire netting.

THE BATH: These are best formed of cement with a soak-away beneath and the one described below, is very easily formed of Portland cement.



SECTION THROUGH BATH

A. 12 inch (or less) drain pipe forming soak-away.

B. Block of concrete forming Bath Basin.

C. Waste Pipe, fitted with lavatory - basin plug and collar.

D. Overflow pipe.

E. Top of concrete basin, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep at "C," $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep at outer edge.

Such ana viary if a little care and taste be exercised in erection and when planting, is an ornament to any garden, and an endless source of interest, and pleasure, *and care* from January 1st to December 31st, of every year.

I must leave to next issue a description of my experiences and the birds kept—a glossary of their doings is appearing in the serial "Endurance of Birds," which will be shortly resumed.

(*To be continued*).

White-throated Sparrow
Zonotrichia albicollis.

Reprinted from "American Ornithology" for 1901.

RANGE: Eastern North America from Georgia to Labrador and West to the Great Plains. Breeds from northern United States northwards. Winters from the Middle States, southwards.

DESCRIPTION: Length 7 inches; extent 9½ in.; tail 3¼ in. Bill and feet yellowish-brown; eye, brown.

Adult Male.—Two black stripes on the crown, separated by a medium one of white. A broad stripe extends from base of bill, over the eye and down the sides of neck. This stripe is white except that part in front of the eye, which is yellow. A black streak on sides of head, back of the eye. Back chestnut streaked with dark brown. Edge of wing yellow. Two narrow white wing bars. Throat white edged with black on sides and ending abruptly against the dark ash of breast and sides of head. Belly white.

Female and Young.—Colour duller and throat grey.

NEST AND EGGS: The White-throated Sparrow breeds abundantly throughout northern New England, New York, Michigan, and Eastern Canada. The nest is placed on the ground, rarely in bushes. It is often slightly concealed under a fallen branch or placed under an overhanging stone. It is rather a bulky nest composed of grass and weeds. The eggs are laid early in June. They are four or five in number, pale greenish-blue, sprinkled and blotched with brown, chestnut and lilac. Distinguished from the common Song Sparrow by the larger size.

HABITS: The Peabody Bird, by which name the White-throated Sparrow is frequently known, is unquestionably the most handsome of all the Sparrows. His plumage, not in the least gaudy, harmonizes perfectly in every detail and presents a very pleasing picture to the eye. The colours on the back, as in most of the Sparrows, correspond closely to those of the dead leaves, and as he spends most of his time on the ground he is a very inconspicuous subject.

If anyone doubts the value of our song birds as insect destroyers, you can easily convince him of his error. About the first week in April or the latter part of September, when these birds are in full migration, take this doubter out with you and watch them. Low brush in a somewhat swampy locality, is their favourite abiding place. Just before reaching this place you will hear a commotion among the leaves. Now if your friend is at all sincere and is willing to be convinced, he will know that these birds are not working so diligently for their health, but that they are destroying countless numbers of insects, and therefore that they are of the greatest value to mankind.

Another step and perhaps one sharp-eyed little fellow sees you. With an angry, business-like chirp, he hops upon a branch and with his fellows, who at his first warning followed his example, proceeds by his vigorous chirping to inform you that your presence is not wanted, his whole body quivering meanwhile from the vehemence of his arguments.

Early in the morning and towards dusk their song rings out sharply and clearly, amid the babble of the other birds. While at times it sounds rather melancholy, still it is a more perfect song from a musician's view than that of any other bird. No artist on his flute can produce a clearer, sweeter note than can this gifted songster. The song consists mainly of six notes, the first generally low and the remaining ones of higher pitch. He seems to delight in seeing how many variations he can get on these notes by changing the length and key.

During a warm shower in spring, when the other birds are silent, you will see him perched on one foot in a low bush, with tail drooping, and head up, merrily giving voice to his welcome carol.

But they cannot tarry long as they must hurry to their nesting places, so that they may be ready to return again in the fall, before the weather is too severe.

[The above species is the least known of the Song Sparrows to private aviculturists, but a pair has recently come into the possession of our member Mr. Bright, with which we hope he may have breeding luck in the coming season, and an interesting article about his success for our Journal. ED., "B.N."].

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Private Importation of Indian Birds in 1916.

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

(*Continued from page* 36).

BLUE-CHEEKED BARBET (*Cyanops asiatica*, Lath.).

Jerdon calls this species the Blue-throated Barbet, but it is generally known in this country as above. Of some five specimens received, I only succeeded in establishing two, both of which are, I think, doing well in two of our members' aviaries. They are beautiful and interesting birds, but when caged, their cage needs frequent attention to keep it clean and sweet.

Description.—Mainly green, but above the green is overlaid with a ruddy-coppery sheen, paler below, frontal occiput, and a patch at each side of base of foreneck bright crimson ; bands across the crown and above each eye black ; cheeks, ear-coverts, moustachial streaks, throat and fore neck bright blue. Bill greenish yellow, tipped with black ; iris ruddy-hazel ; bare skin round eyes orange ; legs and feet—a shy-green. Total length 9½in., tail 3in.

This species is found throughout Lower Bengal, extending through the sub-Himalayan region as far as theDehra Dhoon, also Assam and Sylhet, it is rare in Arakan. It is common above Calcutta to Barrackpore. It is also found in some of the warmer valleys in the Sikhim Himalayas.

(*To be continued*).

Editorial.

NESTING OF THE SULPHUR-CRESTED COCKATOO (*Cacatua galerita*).—Mr. Whitley has again succeeded in rearing two young birds of this species during last season in a state of controlled liberty. The young birds are still doing well an illustrated article of this interesting event will appear in our next issue.

NESTING HABITS OF THE RAIN QUAIL (*Coturnix coromandelica*).—In an interesting letter in the "Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society," Vol. XXIV., No. 4, Capt. J. A. Budden, describing the nesting of this species in the Central Provinces, states:

> "The Rain Quail pair preparatory to nesting in the latter half of "February. By the middle of March, sometimes before, should the hot "weather be advancing prematurely, nests are to be found. These "are generally in the grass, bounding water nullahs. The chicks are "about in the early part of April and by the time of the monsoon "has set in (first or second week in June) the chicks are big enough "to withstand the torrential rain. As soon as the rains diminish in "September, the parent birds nest again, chicks being about early in "October. The possession of a good pointer enabled me to make the "foregoing observations with some degree of accuracy . . . she stood "to Quail on nests when taken for runs over the grass lands during the "nesting season. The bird would sit within a foot of her nose and I, "on several occasions, walked quietly up behind the dog and observed the "bird on the nest. I found, a Quail never rose directly from the nest, "but always ran several yards before rising. . . . The chicks were "marked with the usual game-bird chick marking."

NIDIFICATION OF THE GOLDEN WEAVER-BIRD (*Plocella javanensis*).—In the same Journal (B.N.H.S.), Mr. J: M. D. Mackenzie gives the following interesting account:

> "When on tour in the Sittang delta (June 30th to July 4th) I "found *Plocella javanensis* breeding in considerable numbers. . . . "The nests were placed from 3 to 12 feet from the ground, generally "about 8 or 10 feet. They were mostly built in a thorny "bush, locally called 'Kathit,' at the extremities of the branches, sup"ported by the twigs being worked into their structure: the support came "indiscriminately from above, below, or all round the nest. I found a "few nests (mostly unfinished) in elephant grass, but 80 per cent. were "in small trees or bushes."

"In all cases the birds had apparently exercised care in the "selection of the site. All colonies found in trees (with the exception "of 5) were in Kathit or Zee, both of them thorny, and most unpleasant "to deal with. Of the five exceptions, four were built in thornless "trees which contained hornets' nests, and the fifth was in a tree infested by a very large ant with a fearsome bite. My man had a "badly swollen hand as the result of getting eggs from the last colony." "I found one or two clutches of three eggs, say 5 per cent., but the "great majority were two only. The nest reminds one more of that of "a Munia than a *Ploceus*."

"In grass, I only found 3 or 4 nests together, but in trees the "colonies numbered up to 12 or 15 nests, usually 8 or 10. "I found "3 or 4 nests containing young, but the greater number contained "fresh eggs; in some, laying had not been commenced."

THE GREEN AVADAVAT (*Stictospiza formosa*).—writing of the occurrence of this species at Lahore in "J.B.N.H.S.," Mr. A. J. Currie briefly refers to the nest as follows:

"I have only found its nest in the Lawrence Gardens on the "24th and 28th August, in evergreens, one nest being situated in a "smaller fir tree; and the other four I found being so far as I can "remember, all in the same tree, a prickly evergreen (*Aureicola*). . . . "Six eggs appear to be the full clutch as I found this number on two "occasions."

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Correspondence.

BREEDING BLUE BUDGERIGARS.

Sir,—The following extract from a letter, which I have received from Mr. A. Pulford, of Devon, may interest you. "I have bred five "Blue Budgerigars this year (1916), one of which with four Greens in "same nest, were quite blind (these from a pair of Greens); and four "others from a Blue hen that I bred from Greens in 1915. Three of "the Blues with three Greens I have deposited at the Zoo; the other "Blue I have in a cage."

The above may prove of general interest.

J. W. MARSDEN

[Details of the parentage of above birds will be found on page 234 of "Bird Notes" for 1916.—ED.].

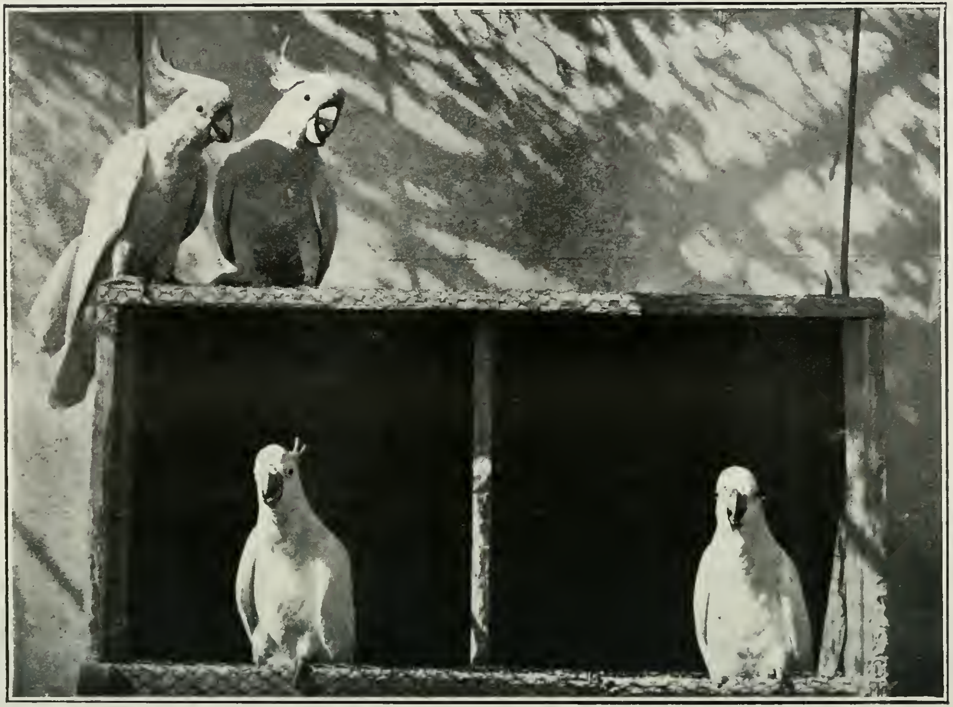

Photo H. Whitley.

Cacatua galerita and their two young.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Successful Breeding of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos.

By H. Whitley.

THE SULPHUR-CRESTED COCKATOO (*Cacatua galerita*) has been known to aviculture for very many years, yet, apparently my success with this species, in a state of controlled liberty, is an isolated one, and, at the Editor's request I am penning these notes.

Description of this well known bird is uncalled for, and their entertaining habits in captivity are equally well known.

I purchased my pair of birds in June, 1911, and I put them down as being not more than three years old at that time. For the first two years or so they were kept on stands in the house, afterwards, with the idea of letting them loose alternately, they were transferred to swinging perches outside under a glass verandah. It was here I found out how exceptionally hardy they were, as they showed no signs of discomfort right through the winter, though apart from the cold the position was somewhat draughty.

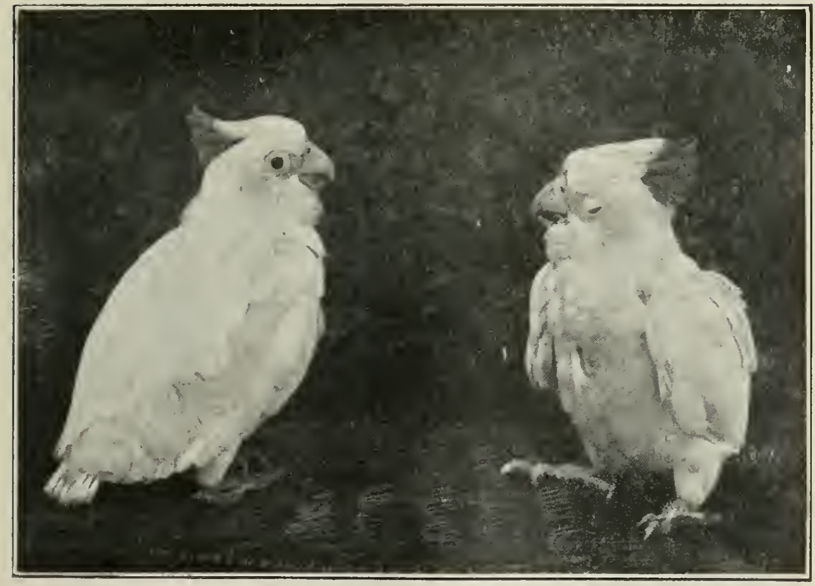
I think one of the primary reasons for putting them where, one at least, could be at liberty, was an accident to the hen bird, whereby she broke her leg in two places. The cock was an adept at breaking his chain, and one day having done this he flew over to the hen's stand—this occurred whilst they were indoors—and the two chains becoming entwined, the hen's chain was so shortened that, on her trying to go under the perch and come up on the other side, she could not do so, and was left suspended in the air; when found, her thigh and shank were both broken, but I managed to get them set, and she now shows practically no effects of the accident.

When the birds had become acclimatised, so to speak, to the verandah perches I, one day, liberated the cock bird, leaving a few inches of chain on his leg, whereby to catch him if necessary. He, however, gave no trouble and in a few days was flying about, and returning when he felt lonely or hungry. As he was by far the most quiet and easiest to handle of the two birds, it was not until the spring of 1915 that, noticing how attentive he was becoming to the hen, I decided to give the hen her liberty also. This I did in March with the result that they nested and reared one young bird (*vide* "B.N." Vol. VII, page 102).

After being kept on their respective perches through the winter, the cock was given his liberty early in 1916. The hen was not released until March 21st, and I do not know the exact date the eggs were laid, but they were last seen to come to feed together on April 7th, until the nestlings were well grown. I assume that the eggs were laid approximately about that date. They again nested in the same elm as in 1915, but on this occasion their nest hole was in the main trunk of the tree, to the right of the telephone standard—in 1915 their nest hole was in a rotten limb to the left of the standard (*vide photo*).

On May 15th I examined the nest and found two young birds not more than two days old, so far as I was able to judge.

On June 2nd I saw both the old birds together without them having been disturbed from the nest, and about that date I again went up to the nest, when the young were pen-feathered all over. On June 22nd I brought the nestlings down and photographed them.



About ten days later I took them away, chained them in box (*vide* frontispiece) and suspended the box under verandah where the old bird's perches were, and all went well.

Being of the opinion that the troubles from which the 1915 youngster suffered were mostly digestive, and that possibly I weaned him too soon; and as I did not wish to risk the young birds at liberty I erected a flight, about 22ft. x 10ft. x 7ft. high, against a wall, with 5 or 6ft. at one end roofed in.

On July 24th I caught the hen, on the next day the cock was captured, and I moved the box with the young birds into the flight, where the photograph (frontispiece) was taken. I now found the young were capable of eating soft bread, which they did from my fingers, not yet having the idea of holding it for themselves. I took off their chains, and on their first exit from the box they could fly strongly.

The hen did most of the incubation, and when sitting she sometimes does not appear for two or three days. I do not know whether the cock feeds her, as I never observed him doing so, but when she does come to feed she appears to take a fair time off from her duties.

Both the young are in good health and condition at the present time. (March 20, 1917).

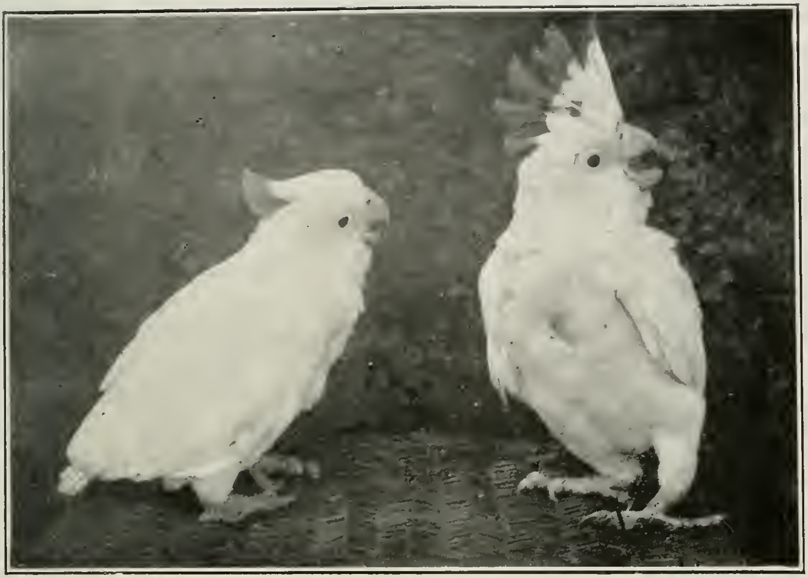
The photos of the young birds (*vide* plate) were all taken on the same day, when they were about five weeks old.

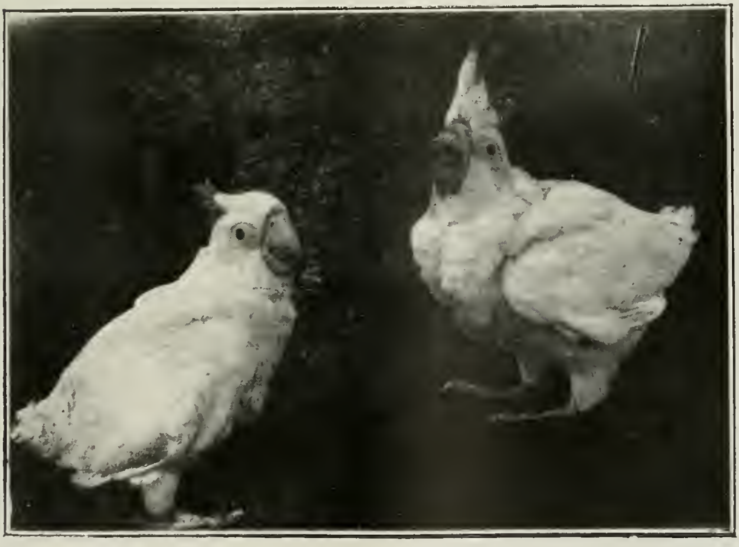
One or two points connected with this event interested me greatly, and I should like to know if they have already been authenticated.

(1). I presume most of the *Psittaci* mate for life under ordinary conditions; but is it possible—as certainly happened in the case of my pair of birds—that the nesting site is habitually prepared in the year previous to that in which it is to be used? If it is so I should imagine it to be a unique characteristic.

When my pair of birds set about preparing another habitation in 1915, shortly after the young bird could feed herself satisfactorily, I imagined they must be double-brooded; this, I fancy, cannot be the case, as the present pair of youngsters were fed regularly up to October, and at frequent intervals I heard them feeding in November and December, and I believe once in January this year.

(2). I was lucky enough—seeing how busy I have





Young Sulphur-crested Cockatoos.

been the last two years to go up to the nest when the young birds had only been hatched out a few hours, and I noticed that the scale—I do not know the correct term for it—which one finds on the tip of the beak of newly hatched chicks was in their case situated at the base of the beak on the frontal. As a match of fact, it would have been no use to them in the orthodox position, but it would make it appear that the fracture of the shell is not caused by tapping, as is popularly supposed to be the case with chickens and the like, but merely by the increasing *pressure* brought about by the young bird's expansion and movements, this pressure becoming greatest in the one case at the end of the beak, and in the other at the forehead.

In conclusion I may add what a fine and interesting spectacle these birds make while enjoying controlled liberty—their flight evolutions, expression of various emotions, etc., are most fascinating and interesting.

I have been informed that last spring, shortly after both birds were enjoying full liberty, both were seen at different times, in one direction, about three miles from here; this was before nidification, if one may call it so, commenced. They seem to have the homing instinct well developed, and if people with guns could be relied on to leave them alone, I believe I could safely give them a "toss" (homing pigeon expression) at ten or twelve miles.

[A medal has been awarded Mr. Whitley for breeding this species in a *state of controlled liberty*. Any member who first succeeds in breeding it in captivity will still be entitled to a medal.—Ed.].

Private Importation of Indian Birds in 1916.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

(*Continued from page* 58).

Blue Cheeked Barbet. It is rather a noisy bird, its call is very peculiar—a sort of harsh, rolling chattering rattle. It is a bold, active bird in the aviary, more inclined to hop from branch to branch than to indulge in much wing exercise, though it flies strongly and swiftly at intervals during the day. It is fond of a log or small barrel to retire to at nights and for a *siesta* at mid-day, failing such a shelter of reasonable size it will cram itself into an ordinary coco-nut husk. I saw it under such conditions in Mr. Scott-Freeland's aviaries and it looked very comical with its head and beak protuding from the husk; it was not only a marvel how it crammed itself into the husk, but more marvellous still it managed to turn round in the husk, and without any damage to its plumage, too! Their gorgeous plumage makes them conspicuous in the aviary, and in Mr. Freeland's aviary it lived at peace with Sugar-birds, Grassfinches, Fruitsuckers, Thrushes, etc.

It is said to live entirely on fruit in its native haunts, but from the great avidity with which it seizes upon all kinds of insects in the aviary, I cannot but think, that it must also similarly indulge as opportunity offers in a state of liberty.

GREEN BARBET (*Megalaema caniceps*, Franklin). This species was, I think, introduced to English aviculture by my friend and fellow member Mr. E. W. Harper, who presented a specimen to the London Zoo about ten (or more) years ago, this bird did well and lived for a number of years. Strange to say the specimens I received alive, all hand-reared birds did not do well; they certainly had a very rough voyage and arrived in an exhausted condition, and though with infinite trouble and care I managed to keep several of them alive from six to eight weeks they all went "pot-bellied" and died within a few days of each other—a most disappointing result, for apart from the value and interest of the birds, they cost considerable for fruit, insects, etc., before they succumbed. They are large and beautiful birds, but not so showy as the Blue-cheeked.

Description.—Above grass-green; top of head, neck, and underparts brown streaked with white, the throat and head showing very little white, the former somewhat dusky; abdomen palish dusky-brown with a few obscure whitish streaks; fore-neck and breast brown; bill palish orange-brown; iris ruddy brown; bare skin round eye pale orange; legs and feet pale brownish-yellow. Total length 10½ in., tail 3½ in.

Range.—According to Jerdon this species is found throughout the greater part of the Peninsula of India.

Habits.—Its call is loud and startling, somewhat similar to a sort of laugh. The call is heard at all hours, very frequently on moonlight nights. Its food in a state of nature is fruit, berries, and insects.

In captivity they take freely of fruit and insects, also milk sop and a little insectile mixture. In a cage I found them somewhat lethargic, but that was probably owing to my specimens not being fit. When the ban on the importation of birds is removed I hope to obtain and test a pair of these striking birds in the aviary.

COPPERSMITH OR CRIMSON-BREASTED BARBET (*Xantholaema indica* Lath). Neither of the two specimens shipped arrived alive, but this species has been exhibited on more than one occasion by our member, Mr. C. T. Maxwell. It is a beautiful and small species, but only a very few specimens have reached this country alive.

Description.—"Green above, the feathers of the back and wing covers more or less margined with yellowish; beneath yellowish or greenish white, streaked with green; the whitish predominating on the middle of the belly; broad frontal space, and wide pectoral gorget crimson; throat and around the eye pale sulphur-yellow; below the crimson gorget is a narrow crescent of golden-yellow, a band across the crown, continued round to the yellow throat, and a moustachial streak, black; a bluish tinge on the occiput and sides of the neck, where the black gradually passes into the green of the back, and also on the margins of the great alars and tail. Luteous varieties of this species occur occasionally. Bill black; irides dark-hazel; nude obitar skin dull crimson; feet coral-red; claws black. Total length 6½ in., tail 1½ in." Jerdon.

Range and Habits.—This species is found throughout

India, excepting the Himalayas and Punjab. It frequents woods, open spaces in jungles, groves of trees, avenues and gardens it is bold and fearless and approaches close to houses. Some observers state that it runs up and down trees like Woodpeckers, but Jerdon states that he has never observed this, and that it hops about the branches like other perching birds. Mr. Blyth states that one he kept for some time in captivity would take insects and munch them in its mouth, but did not swallow them and forsook them immediately when fruit was offered. Its chief food is fruit and sometimes perhaps insects (perhaps Mr. Maxwell will kindly give us an account of his bird. ED. "B.N."). Its loud call note is something like *took took took* (Jerdon), and appears to come from a different direction from that from which it really proceeds. It breeds in holes in trees; the clutch is two (sometimes more) white eggs.

It is to be hoped that at the end of this dreadful war this species will be more frequently imported, for it is a most interesting and beautiful bird, in spite of the somewhat startling contrasts of the colour arrangement of its plumage.

(*To be continued*).

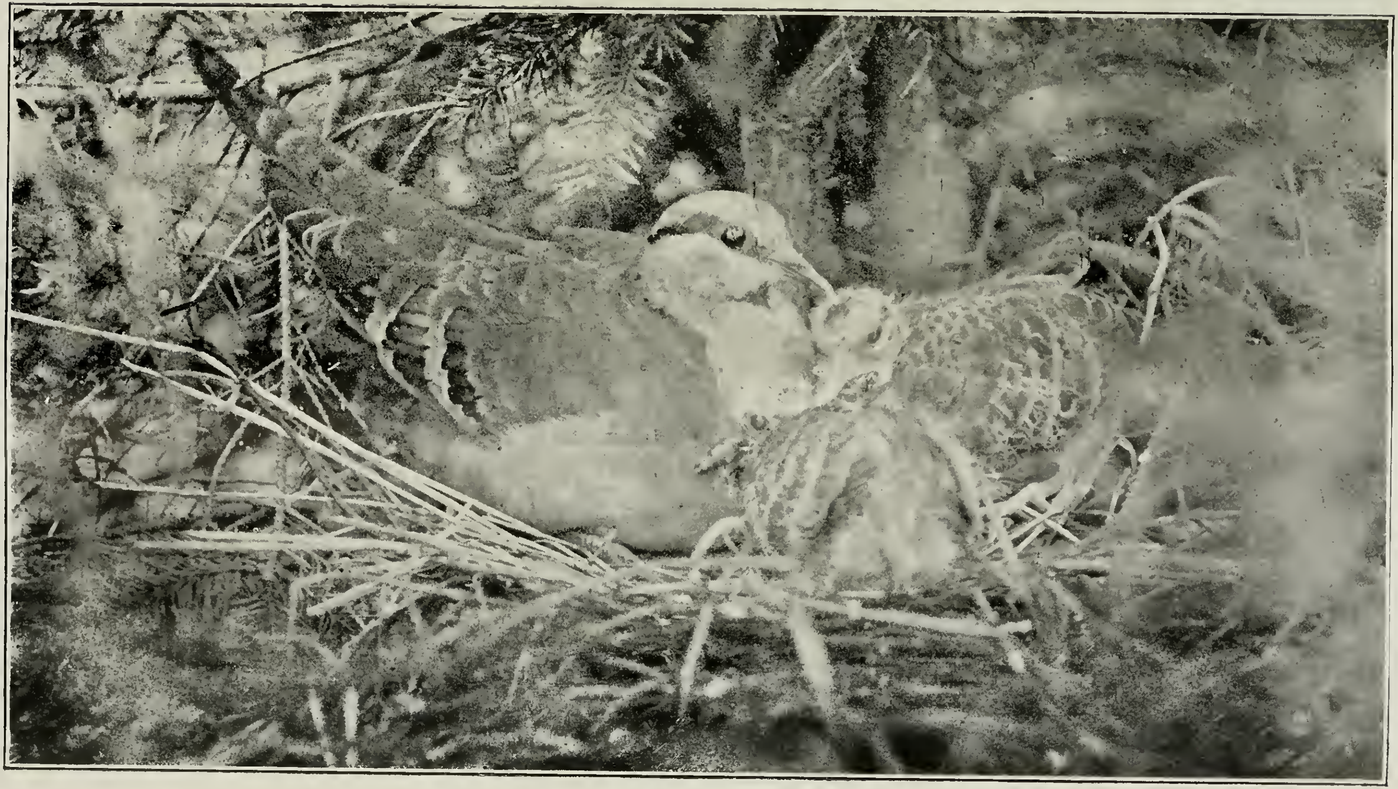
Some Doves I Have Kept.

BY WM. SHORE BAILY.

(*Concluded from page* 50).

HALF-COLLARED TURTLE DOVE (*Turtur semitorquatus*). An uninteresting species, closely allied to the common Barbary Dove. I have had three or four of these birds and they nested frequently, the eggs always proving infertile. I fancy that they were all hens, as I have never seen them displaying to each other. They did not live very long with me.

CRESTED DOVE (*Ocyphaps lophotes*). This very handsome Australian pigeon has nested several times with me, but without success. They look very nice in a large aviary and their display is amusing, but as I found them rather quarrelsome and their rapid and somewhat hawk-like flight seemed



Brush Bronzewing and Young.

to disturb the small birds in the aviary. I disposed of them after one season. I believe that these birds have bred freely in this country in a wild state

VIOLET DOVE (*Leptoptila jamaicensis*). Another very striking looking pigeon, not very frequently imported. Habitat West Indies. I found them very free breeders, but they had the bad habit, common to some pigeons of leaving their young before they could properly cater for themselves. The few young ones, I fully reared kept in their nest until they were strong on the wing. Those that left the nest, before they could properly fly all died, attempts to hand rear them proving unsuccessful. I think that this bird in a wild state consumes a good deal of live food. My birds were very fond of garden worms, and would also take mealworms freely. They spent much of their time upon the ground and were very active.

WHITE-CROWNED PIGEON (*Columba leucocephala*). Another fine bird from the West Indies. Being black with a white head, it contrasts very strongly with any of the doves and pigeons usually kept by our members. My pair of of these birds were intolerably wild, and were the only species of the *Columbidae* with which I have had any trouble in this respect. When anyone entered their enclosure, they would dash themselves against the wire in the most stupid manner, and as they would soon have made the other occupants of their aviary as wild as themselves I was very glad to accept some other birds in exchange. They have been bred at the Zoo, but I do not think that many amateurs have succeeded with them.

BLEEDING HEART DOVE (*Phlogoenas luzonica*). A well known and very pretty pigeon. I have had three or four examples. but think that they must have all been of the same sex as they made no attempt to nest. Whether they were all cocks or all hens I have not the least idea. One would naturally think that if they had all been of the female sex, one or more would have laid eggs, during the two years that I kept them. On the other hand, if they were all males, one would have expected to find them quarrelling occasionally and this they never did. Neither did I at any time see them displaying, although on rare occasions I heard one of them cooing a truly mournful sound. They spent most of their time marching around and around at a very quick pace and looking as if they had some very important business in hand. The blood-red stain on the breast always caused a remark amongst my visitors, and it was difficult to make them believe that the birds were not injured. When the first pair arrived. I was away from home and my man unpacked them. He promptly sent me word that two pigeons had arrived, but that they had been badly hurt on the journey, as their breasts were covered with blood. He did not discover his mistake until I returned!

BRONZE-WING DOVE (*Phaps chalcoptera*). This, the well known Squatter Pigeon, is the largest and quite the steadiest doves I have kept. It is a handsome addition to anyone's collection. They are free breeders and very hardy, keeping at it all the year round. A pair of strong young ones left the nest here on Xmas Day, and must have been in the nest when the thermometer was registering 16 degrees of frost. It is a wise plan to separate the sexes for a month or two in the winter. Like the Violet Doves they will eat earthworms freely, and are very fond of mealworms, and I certainly think that whilst they have young, a few of these every day are a help.

BRUSH BRONZE-WING DOVE (*Phaps elegans*). This pretty bird is a good deal smaller than its cousin *P. chalcoptera*, and the sexes are not alike, a great advantage I think from an avicultural point of view. They are free breeders, and quite hardy. Unfortunately they have the bad habit of deserting their young before they can properly cater for themselves, so many of their little ones perish. I thought myself lucky last season in fully rearing two pairs out of five that were hatched out. After the little Diamond this is my favourite dove.

GREEN-WINGED DOVE (*Chalcophaps indica*). Through the kindness of our Editor I secured a pair of these lovely Indian doves early last December, and I cannot imagine a more desirable bird for any aviary. They appear to be absolutely indifferent to cold, as the thermometer in their enclosure fell on one occasion to within 4 degrees of zero. A very fine coloured plate by Mr. Goodchild of the Australian Green-wing (*C. chrysochlora*) appeared in the "Avicultural Magazine" for March, 1914. It differs from the Indian species principally in the absence of white feathers on the head and face of the male. To see these birds at their best they should be kept in a sunny aviary. Known in India as the Indian Bronze-winged Dove.

GREEN FRUIT PIGEON (*Sphenocercus sphenurus*). Once again I am indebted to our Editor for the possession of a pair of these most interesting pigeons. Coming as they do from the Himalayas, the kind of winter we have had this year suits them admirably, and I think that there should be a reasonable chance of their nesting this spring. A fine coloured plate of a pair of these birds by Mr. Goodchild appeared in the "Avicultural Magazine" for March, 1912. In general colour they resemble the Indian Green Parrots. The cock differs from the hen in having the back and wings maroon red. The feathers on the flanks and thigh coverts in both sexes are dark green, with pale yellow edges. As their legs are short, this has a curious effect, and gives them the appearance of wearing broadly striped trousers. Mr. Pelham S. Dodworth, of the Bombay Natural History Museum, gives a very interesting account of their wild life. It appears that the natives believe that they never settle upon the ground, and seldom drink water. I have had my birds now for several months, and I have never once seen them at their drinking vessel and only once have I seen one of them on the ground. This was after it had been suddenly startled, and it had failed to make good its hold upon the wire netting. It seemed to be helpless on the ground, and it suffered me to pick it up. In the branches of trees used as perches, they are almost as active as parrots. I feed them on boiled rice, soaked maize and banana. It is probably that this diet renders water unnecessary.

[Both my cock and hen drink twice daily and come to the ground freely for food, as their food vessels are placed there, but they spend their time otherwise amid the branches.

Unfortunately I have lost the cock from long standing liver trouble, so I cannot hope for breeding luck unless another cock comes my way. They are very beautiful and grand birds for a roomy aviary, and are also very hardy.—ED.].

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Notes on Breeding Yellow-rumped Serin X St. Helena Seed-Eater Hybrid.

By MISS E. F. CHAWNER.

These birds mated early in the season, rather to my vexation, as at that time I had a true pair of the Serins and hoped to breed them. However, the hen presently died, so I had to make the best of it and allow her mate to find consolation where he could. The Seed-Eater built many nests and laid at least four clutches, which were all clear. The next effort was crowned with success, one egg hatched, the others were clear as usual. Both parents were very careful of, and attentive to their nestling; it was reared on live "ants' eggs," green-stuff, and seed from the crops of the old birds. It grew very fast and left the nest ten days after hatching. Unluckily the mother died very soon afterwards, and the young bird had to fend for itself, which fortunately it proved able to do. At that time it was very like a young Greenfinch, but had a dull yellow bar on its forehead. As time went on, it grew more like its father except that it had no yellow on the rump. It sang lustily and was a fine upstanding bird. After some months yellow patches began to show on its face and I think it would have grown into a very pretty specimen, but it developed fits and died in the beginning of February. I sent the corpses to our esteemed Editor and understand that he has preserved the skin. He states that this cross has not previously been reared in England.

[The parentage of this hybrid was quite clear; it favoured both its parents, but as soon as we receive the skin from the taxidermist, a description will be published.—ED.].

Early Experiences.

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

(Continued from page 55.)

Perhaps before passing on to the occupants, I had better add a few words as to planting, and furnishing.

PLANTING: The arrangement is indicated on ground plan, so need not further be referred to, and, as to kind of trees and bushes used a local nursery-man had better be consulted, as it is no use planting what does not flourish in your locality. The following are all good where soil and other conditions are suitable.

Evergreens: Cupressus (*macrocarpa* is a good strong growing species), aucubas, Portugal laurel, rhododendron, retinosporas, berberis (the small-leaved species are suitable and highly ornamental), veronicas, euonymus, privet, golden privet, form a good series to select from.

Deciduous: Hazel, hawthorn, any kind of fruit trees, maples, poplar, birch, etc.

Climbers: Ivies, common and Japanese honeysuckle, wild, mountain, and other clematises, everlasting pea, rambler and climbing roses, hops, and convolvulus.

Plants and Herbage: Garden marigold, mignonette, cornflowers, sunflowers, safflowers, mallows, nasturtiums, cow parsley, wild iris, dock, sorrel, shepherd's purse, dead nettles, wild iris, dock, sorrel, shepherd's purse, wild grasses.

Trees and bushes should be put in of a sufficient size to supply effective cover at once, the pruning knife can always keep them within bounds. With the exception of a strip near the front the grassed portion should not be put down in turves like a lawn, but clumps of various grasses should be dug from some near hedgerow, and planted nine to twelve inches apart, this applies to both grass and herbage; this leaves small patches of bare earth for the birds to obtain grit, insects, etc., from, and also makes excellent runs and retreats for any ground birds you may include.

FURNISHING: The shelter should have the back and ends covered with twiggy branches, placed thick enough to form a hedge all round; fouled twigs can be cut out and when the hedge becomes too thin it can easily be renewed. A few screw-eyes judiciously placed and a roll of binding wire enables them to be put up or removed very easily. The centre should be left open. The covered flight must be treated similarly but the branches placed about more sparsely. The floors of both places should be kept covered with gritty sand, and one or two pieces of rock salt placed about, the latter to be watered at intervals.

FOOD VESSELS: Self-supplying hoppers are useful and save labour. Excellent ones can be made from wide-necked bottles, by placing them in an inverted position over a small dish, about one and a half-inch deep, some sort of a stand must be arranged to keep the bottle in position (see diagram).

KEY TO DIAGRAM OF SEED OR WATER HOPPER.

A.—Bottle placed in inverted position.

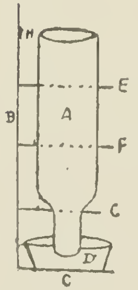
B.C.—Two pieces of 6in. x 1in. board, nailed together at right-angles to each other, forming a bracket.

D.—Pan to receive seed or water as it falls from the bottle.

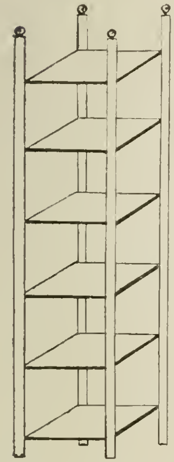
E.F.—Two pieces of 6in. x 1in. board nailed at right-angles to bracket, with circular holes in for bottle to pass through.

G.—A similar piece of board, with circular hole for neck of bottle to pass through, so that the end of mouth of bottle is one inch above bottom of pan (D) and half-an-inch below rim of same.

H.—Hole to hang up by.

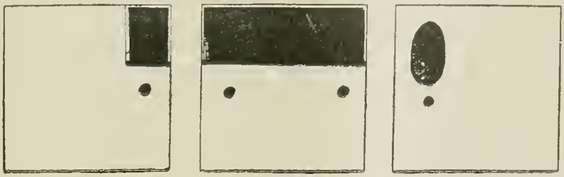


Such hoppers answer splendidly for seed and water, but for other foods I prefer glass or china dishes, and if a number of these are procured, all the same size, with rims, light wood carriers may be made to hold them, cutting in the centre of each platform to allow the dish to drop in and rest on its rim. The carrier figured is quite simple, mine are made from pieces of wood 8in. square, fastened together at each corner by a nail or screw through the circular rod (¾in. diameter), the platforms are each 9in. apart. A screw-eye is put in the top of each rod, and they are suspended either from the roof of shelter or covered flight with iron chain. I find such carriers most convenient in use and cheaply and easily made.



Where a mixed community of birds are kept together, it will greatly tend to the peace of the aviary if there is more than one vessel for each kind of food. If all are compelled to crowd round one vessel, the weak and timid species "go to the wall" or have to be contented with the others leavings, and of the favourite or special foods are not allowed to obtain any—many valuable birds are lost from this cause.

Nest Receptacles: These should be varied and numerous; far in excess of the number of pairs in the aviaries. Boxes, barrels, husks, and rush flask-nests are all favoured; these should be distributed about the shelter and covered flight, leaving the birds to construct natural nests in the open flight if they will. Boxes about eight inches square with hinged tops, and entrance openings (facing the light) are as good as any (see diagram below).



The dots, below openings in diagrams, indicate where a twig should be fixed. Hay, long fresh grass and a little moss will meet the requirements of most species for nesting materials.

Space is precious in these war times, and I must leave birds and foods to be dealt with in future instalments.

(*To be continued*).

The Birds of British Guiana.

By Chas. Dawson, S.J., M.A. (Oxon.),

This article is reprinted from the "Journal of the Board of Agriculture of Brit. Guiana." with our apologies and thanks to the Editor, Author and Proprietors.—Editor "Bird Notes."

I.

I purpose in this and in following articles to give a brief, general description of all the Classes, Orders, Families, and Genera of the birds of the Colony with some account also of their habits, characteristics, and affinities. I shall treat separately such species as are typical, abnormal, or in any way worthy of special mention. The reader is supposed to be familiar with the specimens in the local museum and to have some knowledge at least of Ornithology.

There are in the world upwards of seventeen thousand species of birds known to science, of which this Colony can boast some seven or eight hundred.

I append a complete list of the Colony birds, which I have compiled from the Hand-List of the British Museum. I may remark in passing that there are many more species of birds found in this Colony than are notified as such in that Hand-List (1899-1912).

A few years ago, *The Argosy* published a list of Colony birds drawn up by Mr. Rodway from the specimens collected by Mr. Quelch, B.Sc., the former Curator of the Museum, but it is now out of print and, moreover, needs revision. Previously, in the year 1884, Osbert Salvin, M.A., F.R.S., published a list of British Guiana Birds in the "Ibis," based upon a series of collections made by Henry Whiteley during the years 1879-84; but this also is not now procurable and would need revision.

To the former of these lists I am indebted for the English names of many birds. Where no English name appears to exist I have ventured to supply that defect by one suggested either in the Latin title or by some peculiarity of the bird itself; this I have indicated by a dagger, thus: † I refrain from naming a bird from its discoverer, as for instance, "Whiteley's Toucan," because such names are no real indication of the bird itself; I prefer to call this particular bird, "the Sea-green Toucan," since sea-green is its prevailing colour. And so of others. Calling a bird after the name of a place is open to the same objection.

Where the specimens in the Museum do not represent, at least at present, the whole Class or Order, I have indicated absent forms by an asterisk; and where species are doubtful, as birds of this colony, or are only chance visitors, I have marked them thus, (?).

Some apology may be thought necessary for the order I have adopted in presenting the different Classes and Orders. Birds have affinities, whether of habits or structure, in so many directions, and the conclusions of Science are at present so conflicting and indeterminate, that I have felt myself free to follow an arrangement of my own. Thus I have placed Eagles and Hawks at the head of the list because they are most masterful of all the feathered tribes; not because I am unaware that, in the order of evolution,* *Ratitae* (of existing birds) are generally placed in that position. So also I have placed sugar-birds and humming-birds in juxta-position because, whatever and however divergent, their process of evolution may have been, they have strong outward affinities and resemblances. Similarly also swifts and swallows, king-fishers and jacamars. Where no such strong outward affinities are present, I have been content to follow the provisional conclusions of science, and thus I have placed cuckoos near parrots, and wood-peckers near toucans. Further, I have placed tyrant-birds near barbets and the two Orders of barbets together, for the sake of mutual comparison and contrast. So of other forms. In all cases their scientific status is clearly denoted. At present the whole arrangement of birds in Classes and Families is, to say the least, more or less tentative. It is doubtful whether a final and satisfactory settlement will ever be arrived at.

BIRDS OF PREY.

Under this popular title may be included all raptorial

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*There are not wanting Ornithologists who would describe Penguins (*Spheniscidae*) as the most ancient form of bird.

birds such as Eagles, Vultures, Hawks, Harriers, Buzzards, Kites, Falcons; as well as Owls and Night-jars. It has been convenient also to include the solitary Colonial specimen of the corvine family, the Jay. The Colony has more than its due proportion of raptorial birds, there being some fifty species of hawks and vultures, twelve of owls and the same number of night-jars or goat-suckers.

Vultures number twelve genera and twenty-six species. Hawks, including all the rest, some eighty genera and four hundred and eighty species.

Hawks and Eagles may at once be recognised by their upright and dignified carriage, their piercing and intelligent eyes, hooked beaks and powerful claws or talons. The females are generally larger than the males, but not so brightly coloured; in some species, notably among the harriers, the females differ so entirely from the males that they have often been mistaken as birds of different species.

Vultures are the scavengers of the earth and may be known by their bare heads, and less powerful feet. They feed on the carcases which they easily descry, as they soar aloft, by their telescopic vision. Their sense of smell, as is the case of birds generally, is weak. They do not disdain to feed on flesh and offal in a high state of putrefaction, plunging their heads into the reeking mass.

The *Harpy Eagle* is the most powerful of his masterful tribe and is so named after the fabled monster of classic lore. He ranges throughout tropical America and preys upon such mammals as sloths, fawns, pecaries, and monkeys. He must not be confounded with the *Crowned Buzzard*, a bird of different calibre. Buzzards are slow and heavy of flight and some of them content themselves with such fry as small lizards, amphibians,and even beetles. One of them, the Awl-billed Buzzard or Kite (as it is called), has a slender, hook-like, maxilla (or upper beak) designed for extracting snails from their shells. In case of need, buzzards, and some other hawks will even feed upon leaves and berries.

The *Osprey* or Fishing Hawk, is an eagle in size and power, and feeds entirely on fish, which it procures by diving, sometimes from a great height, into their watery element. Its outer toe or talon is reversible, and thus it is able to hold its slippery and struggling prey securely. Its range is worldwide and it has been known to breed in Great Britain. It was formerly classed among falcons, but is now regarded as belonging to a separate family.

Falcons are bold, long-winged, swift-flying hawks; and chase their prey with vigour, seizing it as it flees, with great skill. They are distinguished by having a notched maxilla. To this class belong Kestrels, Hobbies, and the beautiful Merlin.

Kites may generally be known by their forked tails. One of the most remarkable is the Swallow-tailed Kite, which as it soars on high after the manner of its tribe, might easily be mistaken for a large swallow. Kites are closely related to Buzzards.

Under the term Hawk are included all diurnal raptorial birds that are not Eagles or Vultures, Buzzards, or Kites, Falcons, or Harriers. The word is used in a general sense of all these birds.

Harriers were originally so named from their habit of harrying poultry. They are distinguished by having a frill something like that of an Owl. In flight they resemble Buzzards, but walk more quickly on the ground. They affect the open country and prey upon snakes and frogs.

The *Caracara* or Carrion Hawk is a connecting link between hawks and vultures, having the structure of the former with the habits of the latter. It runs easily and quickly upon the ground, a thing uncommon among hawks, and is often seen in company with the Black Vulture. There are several other kinds of hawks which have similar characteristics; but not in such a marked degree. Caracaras, when other food fails, will eat insects, worms and seeds.

The *Black Vulture*, erroneously called the Carrion Crow or Turkey Buzzard, of which there are four species in the Colony is a common subject. He may be seen at all times either soaring high in the air, or scrummaging around a dead dog or fowl thrown out on the roadside. At a distance these vultures might easily be mistaken by the uninitiated for small turkeys, hence their alternate popular name. On the ground they move with a hop and a stride.

The *King Vulture* is so designated from the gaudy colours and coruncle that adorn his bald head, giving him the appearance of being crowned; not from any courageous or kingly qualities.

Eagles and large Vultures build their nests amid rocky ledges on crags in retired places; hawks build nests of sticks in trees, or even utilize the abandoned nests of other birds. The smaller vultures build their nests on the ground or on low shrubs in retired places. On this account, the Black Vulture has been almost exterminated in Jamaica by the Mongoose, unfortunately introduced into that country, for these animals love eggs.

Hawks' eggs are generally beautiful objects (Ospreys' particularly so), being streaked and blotched with rich red, brown, or purple. The cry of hawks and eagles is a peevish sneer or snarl; that of vultures generally a grunt.

Hawks are recognised as enemies by all the feathered tribes and mobbed without mercy whenever they appear. It is a common sight in Georgetown to see the Chima-Chima Hawk pursued by Kiskadees or even Swallows.

HAWKS AND VULTURES (Colonial.) *Cathartidiformes—Accipitriformes.*

Eagle-like forms (*Aquilinae* —	
Osprey or Fishing Eagle	*Pandion haliaëtus*
Harpy Eagle	*Thraëtus harpyia*
Crowned Eagle (or Buzzard)	*Morphnus guianensis*
White-breasted, or Crowned Hawk-eagle	*Spiziaëtus ornatus*
Black-breasted, or Crowned Hawk-eagle	.. *tyrannus*
Black Hawk-eagle	*Spiziaster melanoleucus*
Cathartidiformes—	
King Vulture	*Gyparchus papa*
Black-headed Vulture (Carrion Crow, etc.)	*Catharista atratus* (*urubu*)

Yellow-headed Vulture	*Rhinogryphus (Cathartes) perniger*
Turkey Vulture	*Rhinogryphus (Cathartes) aura*
Yellow-and-red-headed Vulture	*Rhinogryphus burrovianus*
Buteoninae	
Common Buzzard	*Tachytriorchis albicaudatus*
Lesser ..	*Tachytriorchis abbreviatus*
Short-tailed .. (White-fronted)	*Buteola brachyura*
Grey-barred Sparrow Buzzard (or Hawk)	*Asturina nitida*
Common Chicken Buzzard great-billed)	*Rupornis magnirostris*
White-banded Red Buzzard	*Heterospizias Meridionalis*
Black-necked Crab Buzzard	*Busarellus nigricollis*
Black-headed	*Buteogallus aequinoctialis*
White-necked ..	*Leucopternis albicollis*
Streaked ..	.. *melanops*
Black Chicken ..	*Urubitinga urubitinga*
Wattled Chicken ..	,, *anthracina*
Snail-eating Buzzard or Kite	*Rostrhamus sociabilis*
Grey Snail-eating Buzzard or Kite	.. *leucopygus*
Kites–	
Swallow-tailed Kite	*Elanoides furcatus*
Cayenne ..	*Regerhinus (Leptodon) cayennensis*
Hooked-billed ..	.. *uncinatus*
Yellow-faced ..	*Gampsonyx swainsoni*
Pigeon-Hawk ,,	*Ictinia plumbea*
Grey or Pale ..	*Elanus leucurus*
Polyborinae. Carrion hawks—	
†The Brown Caracara	*Polyborus cheriway*
†*White-necked ..	., *tharus*
Black Caracara or Tick Hawk	*Ibycter ater*
White-billed or Bush Carrion Hawk	.. *americanus*
White-headed or Chima-Chima Hawk	*Milvago chima-chima*
Accipitrinae--	
White-breasted Harrier-Eagle	*Herpetotheres cachinnans*
Slate-coloured Harrier-eagle	*Geranospizias caerulescens*
*Blue Harrier Eagle	.. *gracilis*
Spotted Harrier	*Circus maculosus*
Black Harrier	*Micrastur melanoleucus*
White-breasted Harrier	.. *mirandollei*
Red-necked ,,	.. *ruficollis*
Yellow-necked ,,	,, *gilvicoltis*

†Breast-plated Goshawk	*Astur pectoralis*
Small Sparrow-hawk	*Accipiter subniger* (*tinus*)
*Red-legged Sparrow-hawk	.. *bicolor*
†Capped	.. *pileatus*
Falconinae—	
Large Merlin (or Baridi)	*Falco fusco-caerulescens*
Small Merlin (or Baridi) (White-throated)	.. *albigularis*
Orange-breasted Hobby	.. *aurantius*
Cuckoo Falcon (Double-toothed	*Harpagus bidentatus*
†Path Falcon	.. *diodon*
Small Kestrel	*Tinnunculus (Cerchnis) isabellina*
American Sparrow-hawk	*Tinnunculus (Cerchnis) sparraria*

(*To be continued*).

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Editorial.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA PARRAKEETS:—The Marquis of Tavistock informs us that his pair of *Spathopterus alexandrae* have lived in an entirely unheated outdoor aviary through this trying, changeable and severe winter, in the Isle of Wight. Also that they are very fit. This species is too scarce and costly for many rash experiments, but of recent years the experience of aviculturists has been so abnormally severe, that the above result is very satisfactory and most interesting, proving this exquisite species to be quite hardy when properly housed, and the Marquis of Tavistock ought to have breeding luck with his pair this season.

BANDED CRAKE (*Rallina superciliaris*) From an account of the breeding of the Banded Crake in its native wilds, in the Journal of the Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc., by B. B. Osmaston, I.F.S., we reprint the following interesting extracts, with our best thanks to the Editors and Author.

> "The *Fauna of British India* says about this bird: 'Its summer quarters and breeding haunts are unknown. . . Nothing certain is known of its nidification.' Since this was written, however, Mr. T R. Bell and Major Betham have found nests of this Crake near Poona and Karwar respectively, and have given detailed descriptions of the nests and eggs in Vol. XIV. of the Journal. . . On July 10, while exploring a small nala about a [illegible] from Dehra, full of exceedingly dense jungle consisting of various shrubs and brambles, I came

"on a nest of this bird in the middle of a low thick bush. The "nest was four feet from the ground, composed of dead leaves and a "few sticks with a slight depression in the centre. The bird was sitting "on the nest. On my advancing my hand into the direction of the nest, "the bird, instead of making off, stood up on the nest puffed out her "feathers and viciously pecked at my hand. Having done this, she sat "down again on the eggs. I again put out my hand, with the same "result, and this was repeated several times, the bird refusing to leave "her eggs I then pushed my hand under her, while she stood up and "delivered a series of good hard pecks which were not altogether pleas- "ant. I took four eggs from under her and having examined them, "returned two, leaving her sitting on the remaining five eggs. When I "got home finding that the nidification of the bird was not recorded "in the *Fauna of Brit. India*, I decided to take the remaining eggs "which I did on the following day, though I was very loth to do so, "after the extraordinary bravery displayed by the parent bird. On my "second visit on the following day the bird did not wait for me to "put out my hand but left the nest, walking along a branch in my "direction, and opened the attack by pecking me on the hand. She then "returned to the nest and settled down on her eggs again. I have "seen very many incubating birds, but never one which exhibited such "extraordinary pluck and pugnacity. All the time she was delivering "her attacks she gave vent to a low peculiar noise, somewhat resemb- "ling the swearing of a cat. The eggs, seven in number, were slightly "incubated, pale creamy white, close in texture, with a fair amount of "gloss, and measure about 1.4 x 1.05."

SOME OF THE GURDASPUR DISTRICT, PUNJAB: From an article by A. J. Currie in the Journal of B.N.H.S., we extract notes of the following species:

"The Common Iora (*Aegintha tiphia*). I met with this species "at Hoshipur in March and Gurdaspur in August, while at Malikpur I "found a nest with three young in a small thorny tree on the bank "of the canal on 1st August 1914. A peculiarity in the Punjab birds "of this species that I have so far seen is that the cock birds do not "appear to assume the black upper plumage in the hot weather, which "led I regret to say, to my shooting the cock bird in the case of "the above-mentioned wired nest, as I had no idea that he was breed- ing. However, when I visited the nest a week later all the young "birds were doing well

Other notes from this interesting article will be given in our next issue.

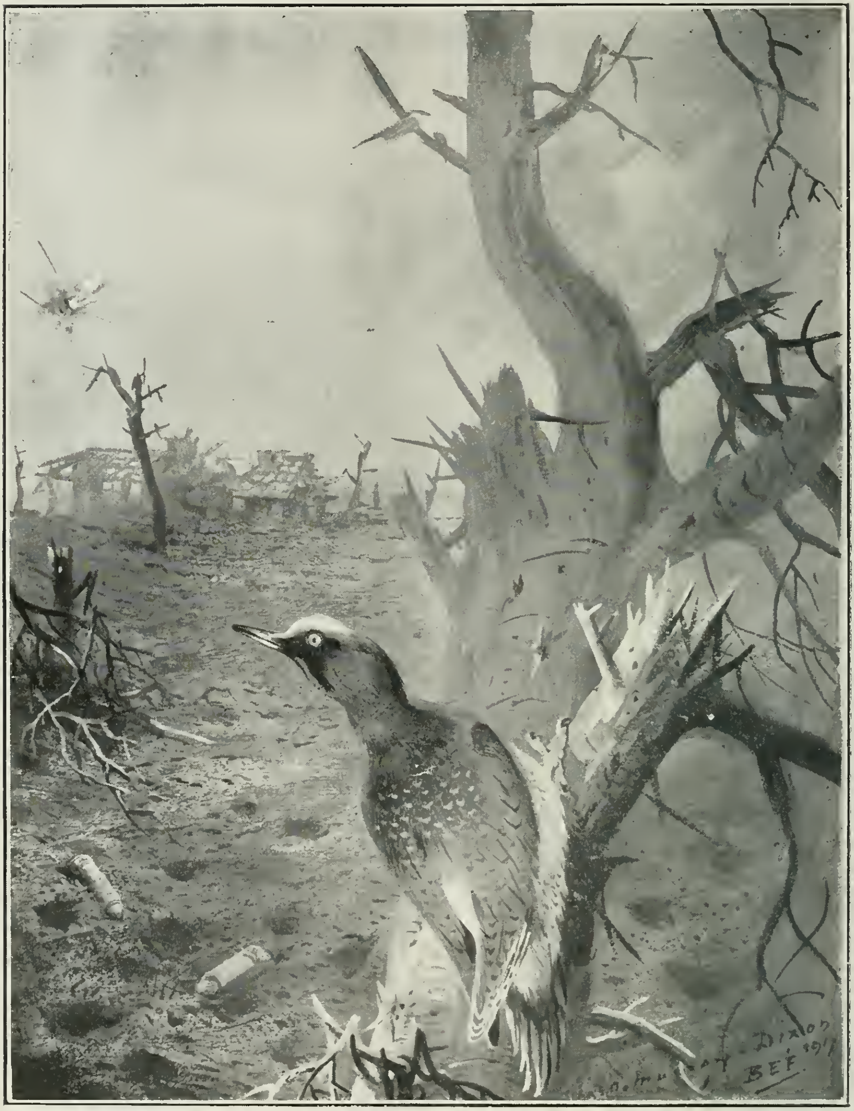
Obituary

Lt.-Col. G. A. Perreau.—It is with much sorrow that I report the death of one of our most valued members. He was killed in action during the attack on Bagdad. The "Morning Post" of March 20th, gave the following brief biographical note:

"Lt.-Col. Gustavus Arthur Perreau, Indian Infantry "(killed in action), was born in 1873, and received his com-"mission in the Royal Munster Fusiliers in March, 1894. "After promotion he transferred to the Indian Army in "April, 1898; he was major in March, 1912, and became "lieutenant-colonel this year."

He became a member of the F.B.C. in 1903, and from the beginning was one of its most generous supporters, and a frequent and able contributor to this Journal. His last contribution was penned while on active service in Mesopotamia, where a most honourable career was terminated on the field of battle. He had a charming personality which drew all to him, and the writer mourns the loss of a dear friend. He was an ardent aviculturist, and keen bird-lover, and imported (when coming home on furlough), many rare species, and others quite new to aviculture. He will be greatly missed among aviculturists everywhere, and many of our members will feel a deep sense of personal loss. To Mrs. Perreau we extend our deepest sympathy in her great bereavement.

W.T.P.


Dixon
1917
BEF

Green Woodpecker in the Firing-line.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Green Woodpecker
(Gecinus viridis)

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

This species is, perhaps, the handsomest, largest and best known of our English Woodpeckers. It is found more or less all over England, but is what may be termed a local species, favouring principally forest and woodland districts, being decidedly scarce in the northern counties. It is fairly frequently met with in all the London suburban districts, and is heard more often than seen, but a sight of the male in his gorgeous garb, as he meanders up and down and around the trunk or branch of some tree, is a feast of beauty and interest indeed, and one which the writer is always willing to take considerable trouble to attain.

But our member, Mr. Murray Dixon, has depicted him amid very different scenes from those of our peaceful English woodlands, for in our frontispiece we see him amid the devastation and throes of the world's greatest war, but the artist must speak of this in his own words. On the back of the drawing is the following short note:—

" Since I have been in France I have seen many " birds, Hoodies, Carrion Crows, Magpies, and Rooks pre- " dominating, but amongst others of more particular in- " terest: Siskins, Redwings, Fieldfares, Blackbirds, Crested " Larks, Blue Tits, Robins, and Wrens; and in the bay at the " mouth of the Somme, hundreds of Pintail, Mallard, Teal, " Scaup, Tufted Duck, Oyster Catchers, Godwits, Dunlins, " Sandpipers and one wild Swan, which flew so close by me, " that I easily made him out to be a Bewick. Close up to "the trenches and in No Man's Land I have seen fair sized "coveys of partridge, White and Tawny Owls, and many "Kestrels, no doubt attracted by the numbers of rats and mice, "but I was greatly surprised to see so shy a bird as the "Green Woodpecker right up at the perpetually shelled village "of Rollincourt. He flew from tree to tree whilst shells burst "at intervals about the place—but he didn't laugh!—O. "Murray Dixon."

It is amidst very different surroundings from these that we see and admire this handsome bird, and some of us know him as an interesting cage pet or occupant of an aviary; as the latter the writer has seen and admired him in the aviaries of Major Johnson and Dr. Gosse, in both places he made himself quite at home, doing no material damage to the woodwork, confining his woodcutting propensities principally to the short tree trunks fixed in the ground for his use. Under such conditions no one could wish for or have a more beautiful occupant for a suitably fitted aviary, rivalling as he does in his many hued garment the gaily-clad feathered denizens of tropical climes. He does not show off so well in a cage, unless it be a roomy one indeed, for he is somewhat clumsy in movement when in confined quarters, but in an aviary, with other species, he is a creature of grace, elegance and beauty, a continual source of interest and pleasure.

He is not difficult to cater for, doing well on any good make of insectile mixture—a good one is readily made of crushed dog biscuit and ants' eggs in equal parts The two ingredients are best kept separate; well soak the crushed biscuit, and then mix in an equal proportion of ants' eggs. Give in addition a few mealworms, and any other insects obtainable.

Hand-reared birds are best, and if nestlings can be obtained at about ten days old, feeding them for the first few days (about a week), on live insects, such as ants' cocoons, mealworms, spiders, beetles (cut up), wasp grub, in fact almost any larvae and pupae obtainable. Preserved ants' eggs free from rubbish, soaked and then dried in a piece of linen, will answer if live (fresh) ones are not obtainable. Afterwards feed on a mixture of best ants' "eggs," finely powdered puppy biscuit, and a few dried flies, made quite moist but not into a sticky mass; and some live insects.

I have neither described the plumage of this lovely bird, nor yet its wild life, realising that both are sufficiently well known to our readers.

In conclusion I must state that the original of our frontispiece belongs to my friend and fellow member, Lt. A. Sutcliffe who has kindly lent it for reproduction.

◆

The Blackbird that Blighted My Life

BY B. THEO. STEWART.

As a child, nothing pleased me better than to listen to stories of an exiled royal ancestor who was known to his devoted followers as the Blackbird*

Very tenderly would I love and cherish *Turdus merula*, but alas! he will have none of me.

As a youngster I climbed up an ancient ivy-covered well-house (a dangerous spot to investigate), on the top of which a pair of Blackbirds had builded them a nest. I secured a fine cock nestling. There were four infants and I only stole one. Unfortunately the parents saw the theft and they haunted me with their cries of rage.

For days after, whenever I appeared, one or other of those wretched birds would pounce down, flying close to my face, and would scream out to all their feathered neighbours "Here is the thief." They followed me about the grounds, making very personal remarks on my appearance until I really felt horribly ashamed of myself.

They found out where I kept the lost child and attacked it violently through the bars of the cage (it evidently shared in my disgrace). I never observed them feeding it, neither did they poison it as country legend hath it, tho' their remarks were enough to poison both of us!

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*One of the many nicknames of Bonnie Prince Charlie.

I reared the young Blackbird and he had just begun to warble nicely and repay my love and care when his career came to an abrupt conclusion.

And his end was horrible!

Rats did you say? Yes, rats!!

In the bitterness of my heart I said I would never have another, and for years I kept my word, and then, having grown older and wiser and worse, I listened to temptation.

The bait was a beautiful Blackbird. "You simply must have it" wrote my friend ,"it's a lovely bird, so tame; quite a pet; just the sort of bird you like; and a cock, a cock!" "No," I replied firmly "I won't, I do no good with British birds and the Blackbird in particular, I won't have another."

Nonsense, you can't refuse this one. He's a perfect beauty, besides," added my friend mysteriously " It's not really a *Black*-bird, its a white one nearly, and it will bring you luck."

That did it.

I wanted a swasticka, and here was one, a white Blackbird!

How charming and original it sounded.

Yes, I had it—worse, I have it still—He came and the moment I caught sight of his chilling confusion a blight fell on me.

He was very, very handsome in a suit of pure white ticked neatly all over with black, even his yellow beak had little black dots on it; his head was pure white and his tail was black. His eyes were reddish with the most coldly ferocious stare that ever chilled a loving heart.

He was quite tame, oh yes!

He never dashed wildly about his cage. Would take a mealworm or anything I liked to offer and then bite the hand that gave the dainty with a kind of cold-blooded hate. He would sit on his perch for hours never taking his eyes from me, simply thinking out what form his ultimate revenge would take.

The tenderest devotion lavished on him only excited his contempt. He despised it even while he took advantage of it.

He never sang when anyone was in his presence. He feared it might give pleasure, I think. But I have caught him whistling in a low key to himself—a hymn of hate, and this I fancy was the burden of his song:

"He is no friend of mine, thank God; no friend of mine."

And yet how kind I was to him!

Sometimes I wonder if he really is a bird or only some unhappy soul that for a punishment was doomed to put on feathers and pass through the world expressing hate personified.

Once, for an experiment, I put him all night in my bedroom. He was quiet, until the lights were out and then giving a weird chuckle he ran up and down the cage; off one perch on to another all through the night until I began to think he must be a white rat and not a white Blackbird, and changed his form at night!

I got up and peered at him.

Perhaps I broke the spell. He was a bird still—there was the gleaming red eye and snapping beak; he was waiting, always waiting, for The Day.

(It comes to all, my Blackbird, who know how to wait. It will come to you—why not?). Yes, he blighted my life!

Did he bring luck, you ask?

Well. one must not talk lightly of fortune. Some say he did—he does. For myself I say nothing. Are not all Totums unpleasant?

It may be that like the Tailor's Starling he owed the world a grudge, and was bent on paying it back.

Outside in the garden others of his kind refused to fraternise with him. He never seemed to mind. Never appeared lonely.

There he sat "nursing his wrath to keep it warm." A feathered Ishmael looking forward to The Day!

Once a visitor exclaimed "How that bird watches you all the time! He's very fond of you, isn't he"?

I caught the Blackbird's eye and I think he chuckled!

He is still with me—still waiting.

Sometimes I feel tempted to cry aloud "Take your beak from out my heart, and take your form from off my door."

And he answers like Poe's raven "Never More."

The Orchard Finch.

(Phrygilus fruticeti).

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

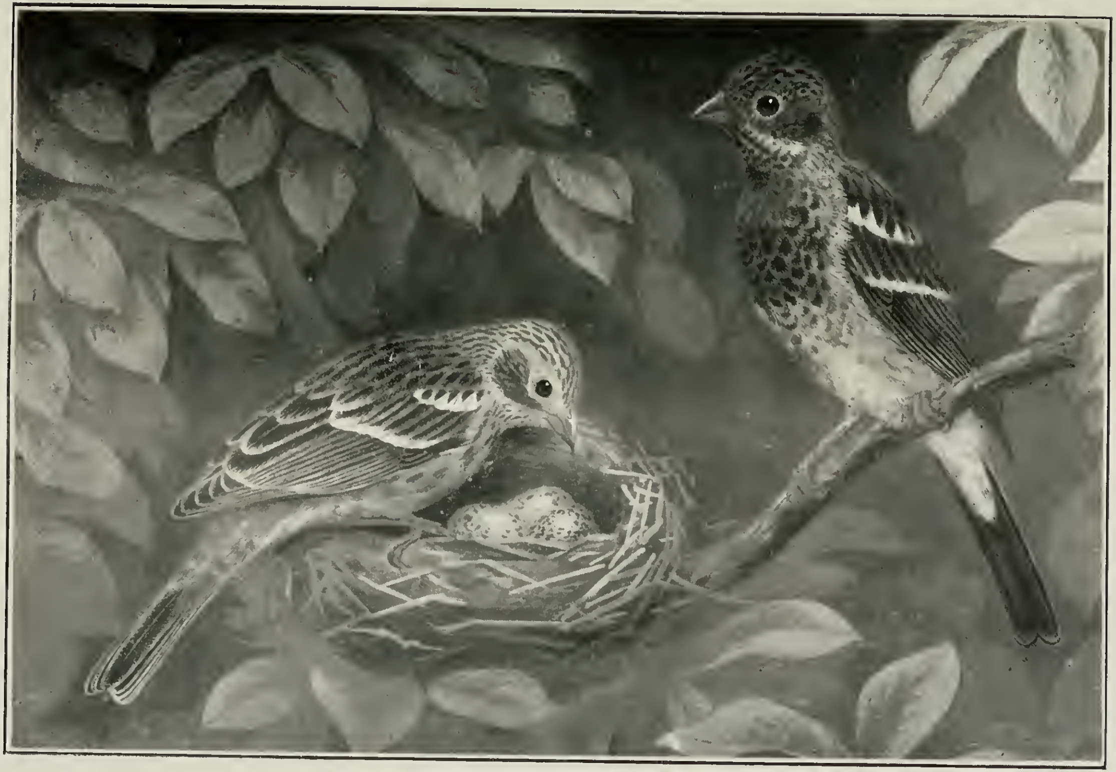
Though under my name the following notes are compiled for the benefit of new readers, from an article by Dr. Amsler, in an earlier volume of *Bird Notes*.

Dr. Amsler has kindly loaned us the water-colour drawing from which our reproduction has been taken, and we greatly regret that the "times" do not permit its reproduction in colour.

In January 1914 Dr. Amsler procured a pair of these handsome birds when visiting Cross's Menagerie at Liverpool, and in March of the same year had the misfortune to lose the cock bird, but in July had the surprise of finding the hen sitting on four eggs, in a neatly constructed cup-shaped nest. These she incubated for fourteen days and was then given a clutch of Greenfinch's eggs which she hatched out but did not feed.

In October, 1914, Dr. Amsler was fortunate enough to procure another male, which arrived in immature plumage and was carefully tended during the winter.

In the spring of 1915 they were put together and in April a clutch of three eggs were deposited in a cup-shaped nest, built in a privet bush.



From life by H. Goodchild.

Orchard Finches and Nest.

Incubation occupied twelve days and on the morning of May 9th, two chicks were in the nest, and a third appeared in the evening of the same day; all appeared very vigorous, were almost black and profusely covered with leaden-grey down. The young were almost entirely reared upon live food—the larvae of a small grey moth, mealworms, and earthworms—which was well chewed, swallowed, and regurgitated.

On May 14th one chick was picked up dead some yards from the nest, but the other two throve well and left the nest on May 21st. The weather proving unfavourable parents and young were removed indoors on the 22nd. The young birds were then of a pearl-grey colour, with considerable down still showing on the head; dark brown flights and tail and brown speckling on the breast. On the 25th both could fly short distances, and were now in possession of chestnut ear-patches. On the 30th they were strong on the wing and picking up food for themselves though still fed by their parents.

At three weeks the general colour of the young birds was as follows: crown, nape, mantle, back and breast, ashy-grey, speckled with black; beak dark horn colour; leg flesh colour; flights and tail feathers dark brown with buff margins—much like their female parent, but with no white or median wing-coverts.

As early as June 15th, the colouration of the male parent began to be manifest in one of the young birds and they ultimately proved to be a pair, but unfortunately on June 26th the young female died of pneumonia.

Nest: This was cup-shaped and neatly constructed of hay and grass externally, and lined with coco-nut fibre and tow. It was placed in a privet bush.

Eggs: The clutch was three; ground colour grey-blue spotted with stone-grey.

For his success in breeding this species for the first time in captivity, Dr. Amsler received the club's medal.

Description of Adults. Male Takes at least two seasons to attain the full blacks in his plumage and is then an extremely handsome bird, even though somewhat suggestive of a very large cock sparrow. I give a sketchy description to make clear the plate. The darkest parts are black, on a grey ground so far as the head, neck and breast, and sides of body are concerned, tinged here and there with chestnut, the margins of the feathers on the back and wings are chestnut; upper wing-bar white, lower greyish-white; ear-coverts chestnut; eye-ring buffish-white; moustachial streak greyish-white; lower abdomen and under tail coverts white, tinged with tawny; beak and legs ochrish-yellow.

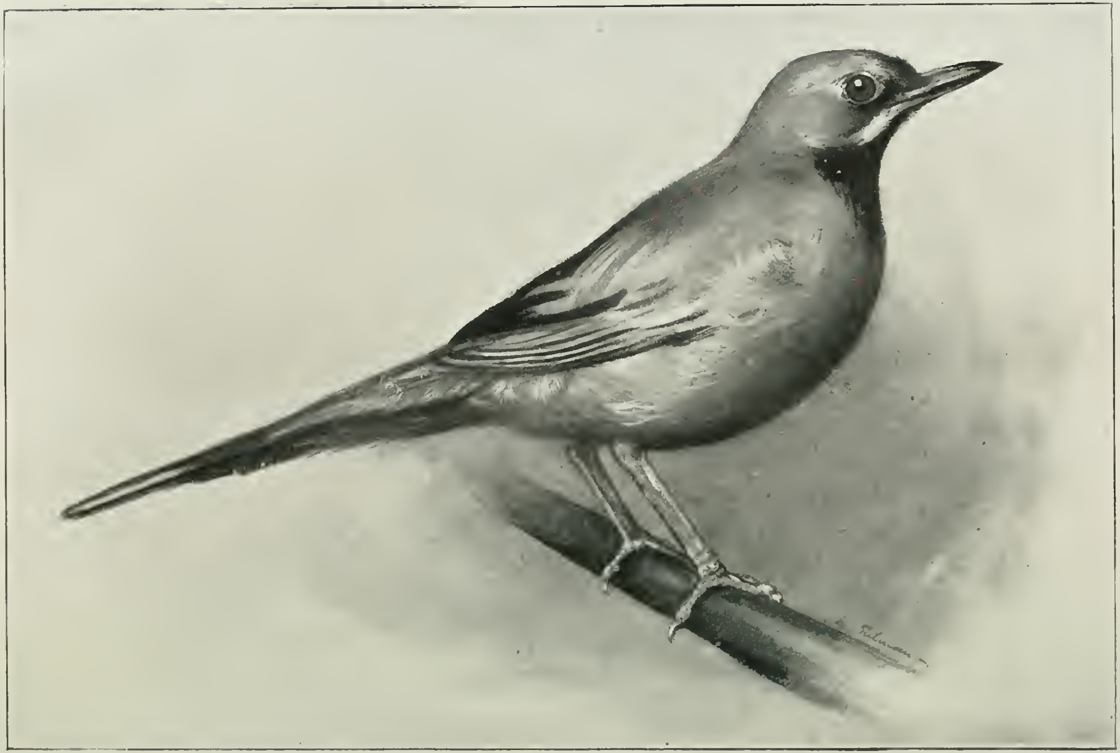
Female. The plumage is a beautiful study in soft brown, and chestnut, both wing-bars are white; beak and legs darkish ochre-brown. I can quite endorse Dr. Amsler's remark "I considered her one of the most attractive birds in my aviaries."

They are hardy, easy to breed (providing there is a good supply of live-food), but scarce on the market.

We are greatly indebted to Dr. Amsler for the loan of the drawing for reproduction. He had it made solely for for the benefit of "Bird Notes." When sending the drawing in October last Dr. Amsler wrote as follows :

> "I fear I have nothing more to report concerning the Orchard "Finches beyond the following: 1916—The young birds are not sale-"able—so I placed the old pair in a small aviary to themselves with "the idea of giving them their liberty (as I did with *Parus major* "when they had young. As a matter of fact I substituted three eggs "of Green Cardinals which laid about the same time as the Orchards—"the young were hatched in twelve days—when two days old I gave the "foster parents their liberty, shutting them in again when the young "were about to leave the nest—all three were fully reared to independ-"ence. The foster parents (Orchard Finches), were very tame and con-"fiding, especially the male, who recognised me as much as fifty yards "away, and would meet me, hoping for mealworms. I saw him twice "in the crowded High Street of Eton, sitting on a telephone wire, "quite two hundred yards from the nest, giving vent as to his somewhat "monotonous love-song. M. AMSLER."

I will conclude with quoting Dr. Amsler's encomium of the species : "I should like to recommend this species,



Red-legged Cuban Thrush.

to anyone who does not insist that a bird cannot be beautiful unless coloured like a Gouldian Finch or Sunbird."

The full account of the successful breeding of *Phrygilus fruticeti* will be found in "B.N." Vol. VI., pages 173-6.

My Aviary Room and Its Occupants.

BY MRS. M. A. BURGESS.

I am only a beginner in Foreign Bird keeping and should not have attempted to pen these notes, but for our Editor's request for copy for the Club Journal.

My aviaries are but small and insignificant, by the side of the beautiful ones that have been described and figured in "Bird Notes. However, very few, I find, keep their birds indoors in a room, and as an invalid an out-door aviary is an impossibility to me. Being quite a novice I have had to fit up my room according to my views and have arranged it for own pleasure and interest. I may add that it had its beginning in a Roller Canary in June 1915, so my experience up to the present is but a brief one, but may be of some little interest to other novices similarly placed.

MY BIRDROOM: It has a southern aspect and is sunny and light. It is distempered green, with the ceiling a lighter shade of the same hue, and the window is fitted with curtains. The flights are 6ft. by 4ft., and are made to bolt together, so as to be easily dismantled. They are fitted with boughs of trees to supply perching accommodation, feeding hoppers and nest receptacles.

Flight No. 1. This is covered with zinc, for the Parrots are very fond of wood. It contains a pair of Senegal Parrots, Long-tailed Glossy Starling, Red-legged Cuban Thrush, a very rare Tamaulipas Tawny Thrush, and an English Starling. These have all agreed well together, and what an interesting study they are, every bird different, and the wonderful interest they create makes one think of the beautiful, which, in these "times" one certainly needs. Would that the world could only go on as peacefully as these birds' lives!

Flight No. 2: This contains a very mixed lot, viz.: Budgerigars (some incubating eggs), pair of Cockateels, pairs Rosella and Tui Parrakeets, Cowbirds, 2 Orioles, several Weavers, Paradise Whydah and Hawfinch. So far these have all agreed well together.

Flight No. 3. Another mixed crowd, but all smallish species, as follows: Roller, Lizard, and Frilled Canaries; also a number of small foreign finches, etc.

I will now make a few observations of special birds, which will but faintly indicate the interest I take in them and the pleasure they give me.

SENEGAL PARROTS: They are a charming pair of birds, so beautiful, so wicked and mischievous and such wonderful woodcutters. Their monkeyish behaviour never fails to interest. I am hoping that my interest may be still further awakened by the advent of a family of baby Senegals!

ENGLISH STARLING: This came to me of its own accord, entered the room during the recent cold weather and refused to leave. He is perfectly tame and very handsome—how beautiful the common starling is when examined standing quietly on a near-by perch—how beautiful are the changing hues of his sheeny plumage under the play of light, and how under such conditions one admires his beautifully bespangled garment!

RED-LEGGED CUBAN THRUSH: What a beautiful creature he is, and how beautifully his red legs contrast with the soft and exquisite harmony of the blues of his body plumage. Our Editor promises to figure him in colour, when coloured plates are again possible, then my readers will be able to share my appreciation of his beauty; at present we have to be content with an illustration of him in black and white.

BUDGERIGARS: How I admire these beautiful, little Australian Lovebirds, they are so energetic and vivacious, and charm one generally with their beautiful flight, general characteristics and their readiness to breed. My great ambition is to breed Blue Budgerigars! I have a true pair Blue × Green birds and great things are looked for from them. I am hoping that, even this season, my ambition may be realised, dream though it be at present.

COW BIRDS: These are beautiful and also very tame, very readily taking mealworms from my hand. This, I believe, is not a general experience.

CANARIES: I am very fond of these, and for an amateur have been very lucky indeed with them. They have had quite a large show season, and have never failed to bring home first, second or third prizes, generally first and second. The Lizards are very beautiful and elegant and are quite the favourites with me.

In conclusion I would add a word of thanks to the many kind friends and fellow members I have bought birds from and who have so willingly helped me with kind advice from time to time, and if this little account is of any interest I shall be pleased indeed. My birds are a hobby and the greatest joy to me, the only trouble being, that like many others, I am afraid I am too often tempted with the beautiful. Great things are looked for in my small flights this season.

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The Story of Jobo.

BY E. MAUD KNOBEL.

About two years ago I was looking through some of the back volumes of "Bird Notes," and in the July number for 1911 I came across Dr. Hopkinson's article on "Birds of Gambia," where he gives a delightful description of the Senegal parrot. He says—"The Senegal parrot is my ideal pet in the parrot line . . . easily tamed, quiet and intelligent. It makes no difference whether it is taken old or young, in three or four days it is practically tame, and in a week obviously delights in being scratched, and shows every sign of enjoying the attentions and presence of its owner."

Having read this I made up my mind that this bird above all others was the very pet for me, for I love a thing that is tame and likes to be handled and petted. I paid a visit to the Zoo. and inspected the specimens there, and found them perfectly tame and charming birds. Then I made various enquiries and watched the advertisements, hoping that

I might soon hear of one, but I had to wait some weeks. At last one day I chanced to go to Gamage's, and great was my joy when I found they had just received a consignment of Senegal Parrots. I selected, what looked a nice healthy bird and judging by the pale colour of the eye and beak and the pinky tinge of the feet, I thought he must be quite young. I carried him home in triumph and expected in a week to have "My ideal pet." However, I was doomed to disappointment. Whenever I entered the room Jobo squeezed himself into the furtherest corner of his cage, remaining perfectly still and terrified with his head down. It is quite true that at the end of a week he condescended to take a piece of apple from my finger, but that was as far as we got and we remained at that point for many months. I have kept and tamed many birds--Parrots in particular, and flattered myself I was rather good in this respect—but Jobo took all the conceit out of me. I tried letting him out—he dashed wildly all over the room, into pictures and vases in the most distressing manner and I was forced to catch him and cut a a wing. After that he was only able to run about the floor, or climb up and down a heavy dog chain that hangs from my ceiling but as to allowing me to scratch his head or touch him, it was impossible—he just went for me and my hands were covered with nips from his sharp little beak. However, they say all things come to those who wait. One day I went into my room—one of my Amazon Parrots was sitting on the top of a chair close to Jobo's cage. As I passed the Amazon I stopped to kiss him and he put his head down to be scratched, and great was my surprise on looking up to see that Jobo had come to the side of his cage as near to me as he could get and had put *his* head down to be scratched. I put up my finger and gently rubbed the top of his head—from that moment the trick was done—but I consider he is one of the hardest birds I have ever tamed.

Now, of course, he fulfils all Dr. Hopkinson prophesied and is absolutely the "ideal pet" and one of the nicest birds I have ever possessed, but it took about eight months of patient work to accomplish it.

He thoroughly enjoys life and will play like a kitten for hours. pulling himself about on his back along the bottom of his cage and playing with his toes or a piece of wood, and then all of a sudden he will catch hold and pull himself up into his swing where he will perform all sorts of acrobatic feats—such as swinging head down with his wings spread out and screaming with delight—or holding on with one foot while he plays with the other. During the past year I have had to undergo two severe operations and spent many weeks in bed Jobo has been my constant companion and helped me through many a weary hour, for one could not be dull with such a charming playmate. He has most amusing and engaging ways and when his cage door was opened he would climb carefully across the bed until he reached me when he would snuggle down into my neck so that I could just kiss the top of his head and stroke him gently on the back. and he would remain thus as long as I chose to have him.

He is not a great linguist, and has only learnt to say two words—" Pretty " and " Winnie "—the latter being the name of a Roseate Cockatoo that I am taking care of while its owner is in France, and who at intervals during the day calls out in a loud and penetrating voice—" Winnie, Winnipeg." Jobo hates him, and it is funny to see this small bird " go for " the great pink thing whenever he gets a chance. When Jobo is specially pleased to see me or very much wants me to take him out of his cage he slightly opens and quivers his wings showing the beautiful yellow-orange underneath, at the same time making a chirruping noise to attract attention.

Having written this little account of my Jobo, what I should like to ask is: Are newly caught birds more easily tamed than those that have been caged a few months—or was it due to my stupidity that I failed so miserably and took so long to tame my Senegal Parrot?

Private Importation of Indian Birds in 1916.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

(*Continued from page 68*).

Erratum: Mr. E. W. Harper points out to me an error I unwittingly made in my notes on the Indian Oriole in stating: "it had a damaged wing, evidently injured at time of catching." He points out that he was careful to accept from the catchers only perfect birds in every respect, so that the injury to the wing of the bird in question must have occurred during transit.

Larger Hill Mynah (*Eulabes intermedius*): This is a very handsome species, but is somewhat heavy and sluggish in movement, though in a roomy flight this does not show when on the wing, but is very noticeable at times—the plop when they alight on the ground or perch is distinctly audible. It is intelligent and interesting, and many individuals become quite talented talkers. I well remember one they had at the Zoo, in the days when the Insect House was the reception house for many species needing warmth at first, I think he was called Jack—his speeches were very numerous: "I'm surprised at you," "How are you?" "What are you talking about?" etc., all uttered with startling clearness. I remember on one occasion being the only visitor in the house, and having quite a long talk with the keeper about his charges, and Jack, evidently ill-pleased at not being noticed, kept uttering in his loudest voice "What are you talking about?" and kept to this one saying till we went to take a little interest in him. When the Small Birds House was completed he migrated there and continued to surprise and interest visitors there for some years till his time came to "go west."

Eight of this species were shipped, all young birds, and of these only two arrived alive; this pair stayed with me for several months, when they went to one of our members, with whom they were doing well when I last heard of them in the early part of this year. I am in hopes that they may breed with him this season. They are too well known to need description, so I will merely describe them as glossy black, variegated with glistening areas of purplish and steely-green, with a white wing-bar; the bill, eye and face wattles and feet are orange-chrome.

In its native haunts it frequents forest regions, and is usually met with in small companies of about six individuals and at others in quite large flocks. It feeds almost exclusively on fruit and berries, and also insects, that is judging from the avidity with which it takes these in captivity. It breeds in holes in trees and the season extends from March to October. Its song contains rich and varied notes intermingled with short harsh periods.

THE BANK MYNAH (*Acridotheres ginginianus*): This is distinctly a pleasing and interesting species, and I was very surprised to find that they did not appear to appeal to aviculturists—true several aviculturists, to whom this class of bird appeals have closed down their aviaries till the end of the war, or are merely keeping them going for what birds they have and are not adding thereto—but even in moderate-sized aviaries they seldom bully the smaller inmates, and are distinctly pleasing birds (in the writer's opinion), and nearly always in the picture.

I think eight were shipped and this number arrived alive—four of them were in vigorous and robust condition, the others much less so, being apparently very livery. The former have thriven and are now perfect and fine specimens, after spending the winter out of doors; the others died off at intervals during the autumn and winter.

Instead of writing further about these birds myself I purpose reprinting my friend, Mr. Douglas Dewar's, account of them from his "Glimpses of Indian Birds," a book which should be read again and again by all lovers of Indian birds.

"The bank Myna (*Acridotheres ginginianus*), like the Indian "corby (*Corvus macrorhynchus*) is a bird that has suffered neglect "at the hands of those who write about feathered folk. The reason "for this is obvious. Even as the house crow (*Corvus splendens*) "overshadows the corby, so does the common myna (*A. tristis*) almost eclipse the bank myna. So familiar is the myna that all books on Indian birds deal with him. They discourse at length upon his character and habits, and then proceed to dismiss the bank myna with the remark that its habits are those of his cousin.

"The bank myna is a myna every inch of him. He is a chip of the old block; there is no mistaking him for anything but what he is. So like his cousin is he that when I first set eyes upon him I took him for a common myna freak. And I still believe I was not greatly mistaken. I submit that the species arose as a mutation from *A. tristis.*

"Once upon a time a pair of common mynas must have had cause to shake their heads gravely over one or more of their youngsters who differed much from the rest of the brood. As these youngsters grew up, the differences became even more marked; they showed themselves slaty grey where they should have been rich brown, and pinkish buff where white feathers ought to have appeared, and the climax must have been reached when the youngsters developed crimson patches of skin at the side of the head, instead of yellow ones. Probably the other mynas of the locality openly expressed their disapproval of these caricatures of the species, for mynas do not keep their feelings to themselves. As likely as not they put these new-fangled creatures into Coventry, for birds are as conservative as old maids.

"Thus these myna freaks were compelled to live apart, but, being strong and healthy, they throve and either paired *inter se,* or managed to secure mates among their normally dressed fellows. In either case, the off-spring bore the stamp of their abnormal parents.

"It is a curious fact, and one which throws much light on the process of evolution, that abnormalities have a very strong tendency to perpetuate themselves. Thus was brought into being a new species, and as there were in those times no ornithologists to shoot these freaks, and as they passed with credit the test prescribed by nature, the species has secured a firm footing in India. This hypothesis accounts for the comparatively restricted distribution of the bank myna. It does not occur south of the Narbada and Mahanadi Rivers, but is found all over the plains of Northern India, and ascends some way up the Himalayas. It is particularly abundant in the eastern portion of the United Provinces. In the course of a stroll through the fields of Allahabad, Lucknow, or Fryzabad, one meets with thousands of bank mynas. There seems to be evidence that this species is extending its range both eastwards and westwards; and one of these days a southerly advance may be made, so that eventually the bank myna may form an attractive addition to the birds of Madras.

"This species goes about in flocks of varying numbers, after the fashion of the common myna. It comes into towns and villages, but is much less of a garden bird than its familiar cousin. It is in the fields, especially in the vicinity of rivers, that these birds occur

" most abundantly. They consort with all the other species of myna, " for whatever may have been thought of them when first evolved, they " are now in Society. King-Crows (*Dicurus ater*) dance attendance " upon them as they do on the common mynas, for the sake of " the insects put up by them as they strut through the grass. The " king-crow, owing to the length of its tail, and shortness of its, " legs is no pedestrian, and so is not able to beat for itself.

" The books tell us that the bank mynas feed on insects, " grain and fruit. I am inclined to think that their diet is con- " fined almost exclusively to the first of these three articles. I speak " not as one having authortiy, for in order to do this, it is nec- " essary to shoot dozens of the birds and carefully examine the con- " tents of their stomachs. This kind of thing I leave to the econ- " omic ornithologist. I admit that bank mynas are very partial to " fields of millet, and other tall grain crops, but I am persuaded " that they visit these for the insects that lurk in their spikes.

' Grasshoppers are to the common myna what bread and meat " are to the Englishman, the *pieces de resistance* of the menu. This " is why mynas always affect pasture land, where it exists, and keep " company with cattle, the sedate march of which causes so much con- " sternation among the grasshoppers. Bank mynas eat grasshoppers, but " seem to prefer other insects, especially those which lurk underground* " Certain it is that wherever they occur they keep a sharp look-out for " the ploughman, and follow him most assiduously as he turns up the " soil by means of his oxen-drawn plough. The house crows also " attend this function. The other species of myna follow the plough, " but not so consistently as the bank myna. The pied starling, although " it does not disdain the insects cast up by the plough, seems to prefer " to pick its food out of mud. One often sees a flock of these birds " paddling about in shallow water, as though they were sandpipers.

" It is amusing to watch a flock of bank mynas strutting along " a newly turned furrow. In upper India it is usual for two or more " ploughs to work together in Indian file, a few yards separating them. " The mynas like to place themselves between two ploughs, and so " fearless are they that they sometimes allow themsenlves to be trodden "on by the team behind them. Altohugh the progress of the oxen " is not rapid, it is too fast for the mynas, who find themselves con- " tinually dropping behind, and have every now and again to use their " wing to keep pace with them. At intervals, the whole following, or a por-

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*Since the above was written, C. W. Mason has published a paper entitled *The Food of Birds in India.* In this he shows that eight stomachs of the bank myna contained 106 insects. His researches show that this species is very partial to the caterpillars of the common castor pest (*Ophtusa melicerte.* (*Vide Memoirs of the Dept. of Agriculture in India* [Entomological Series] Vol. III.)

"tion of it takes to its wings and indulges in a little flight purely for "the fun of the thing. The flock sometimes returns to the original "plough, at others transfers its attentions to another. Thus the flocks "are continually changing in number and personnel, and in this respect "are very different from the companies of seven sisters. The latter "appear to be definite clubs or societies, the former mere chance "collections of individuals, or probably pairs of individuals

"Bank mynas are so called because they invariably nest in "sandbanks, in the sides of a well, or some such locality, they them-"selves excavating the nest hole. Like sand martins, bank mynas "breed in considerable companies, but they are not so obliging as re-"gards the season of their nidification. They usually select sites "which are not only at a distance from human habitations, but difficult "of access, and, as the birds do not begin to nest until well on in "May, when the weather in upper India is too hot to be described in "literary language, one does not often have a chance of seeing the birds "at work. Their nesting passages do not necessarily run inwards in "a straight line. The result is that neighbouring ones often communi-"cate Cast off snake skin is a lining particularly sought after. Mr. "Jesse informs us that from one of these nests in the bank of the "Goomti, near Lucknow, he extracted part of a Latin exercise and some "arithmetic questions. The owners of the nest were not going in for "higher education; it was merely a case of putting a thing to a use "for which it was never intended, a feat at which both birds and "Indian servants are adepts. Notwithstanding the fact that the eggs "are laid in dark places, they are blue, like those of the other "mynas. Young bank mynas of all species have a rather mangy ap-"pearance. Like port wine, they improve with age."

To the above vivid chapter of Indian Myna life I will only add, that in the aviary their strutting and excited garrulousness is certainly both interesting and amusing. While they will take as many insects as you care to supply, but will exist and thrive without—the individuals noted in these notes have not had any, save such as they captured for themselves in the aviary They certainly show a preference for ground larvae, and are at once busy when a patch in the aviary is turned over for their benefit, not even despising earthworms, though large ones as a rule are left severely alone. With me their principal dietary has been insectile mixture, fruit, and the stiff portion of the milk sop put in for other species. I have not observed them at the seed pans.

As already stated all four birds are now in very fine form, and I shall hope to describe more of their doings and characteristics in captivity in a later issue.

(*To be continued*).

The Birds of British Guiana.

BY CHAS. DAWSON, S.J., M.A. (OXON.)

This article is reprinted from the "Journal of the Board of Agriculture of Brit. Guiana," with our apologies and thanks to the Editor, Author and Proprietors.—Editor "Bird Notes."

II.

(*Continued from page* 82).

Owls.—Like Hawks, these birds have powerful talons, hooked beaks and an erect carriage. The beak, however, is not so powerful, for whereas Hawks tear their prey to pieces before devouring it, owls generally swallow it whole, and afterwards eject the bones with fur or feathers, in the form of pellets. They may be recognised at once by their cat-like visage and forward stare. The face is surrounded by a frill, generally of white feathers; the feathers of the head are loose and fluffy, and in consequence it looks much larger than it really is. As they are, with few exceptions, nocturnal in their habits, Nature has provided them with specialized eyes, highly developed ears to catch the slightest sound, and soft feathers to ensure a noiseless flight. Some are adorned with tufts of feathers on the head that look like horns or ears; but these are of no importance in determining Orders or species. There is a general uniformity in the plumage of owls; none are highly coloured; browns, dull yellows and buffs, with white, and occasionally black markings are the prevailing tints. The iris of their abnormally large eyes is bright amber, which gives them a malignant look.

Owls are divided into two distinct families, differing from each other in the structure of the *sternum* or breast-bone *Striginae*, including the Screech Owl, and *Bubonidae*, including the Tawny Owl of England; nearly all the species in this Colony belong to the latter family which is further distinguished by having a reversible outer toe, like that of the Osprey. This, at will, it can turn right back as it generally does in perching. The Screech Owl is cosmopolitan, being found in almost all countries of the world. It is the Barn-Owl of England. The cry of owls is strange and weird; sometimes a screech, sometimes a wail as of someone in pain, and at other times a bark or "woof." They build their nests in holes of trees, or make no nests at all, simply laying their eggs on the decayed wood. The eggs are glossy white and spheroid in shape; the young are covered with down.

Hawk-Owls are diurnal and have lost to some degree their owl-like peculiarities, the facial disc, and prominent eyes; and their fluffy feathers. The Hawk-Owl of the Colony, *Ciccaba hulula,* is noticeable as having hawk-like plumage.

Burrowing Owls, found in both North and South America, are also mainly diurnal in habits. They live in warrens, either made by themselves or, as it were, rented from other animals with whom they live in perfect agreement. In North America they may be seen living in harmony with prairie-dogs, rats, squirrels, or badgers; in this colony, with armidillos, large lizards, and even rattle-snakes. They seem to have established a mutual truce. They feed on small mammals, birds, reptiles, and insects. They have almost lost their frill or ruff.

There are twenty genera and more than three hundred species.

The Oil Bird.—Intermediate between Owls and Night-jars is placed the Guacharo or Oil-Bird, now said to breed in this colony. About the size of a crow and with a similar beak, it has stiff bristles in each side of the gape, its plumage being chocolate and grey, barred with dark brown or black and spotted with white. The legs are feeble, but the wings are large. It inhabits dark caverns, congregating in large numbers, and only issuing forth at night to feed on oil nuts and fruit. It builds its nest of clay, wherein are deposited about four white eggs, often very dirty. The young are so fat that the Indians take them for the purpose of extracting their oil, which they use for lamps, etc. In this way thousands are slaughtered. In some places the young are esteemed as a delicacy, though their odour is said to be that of cockroaches. Only one species of this bird is known. Their cry is a loud, croaking, rasping utterance.

Night-Jars or Goat-suckers are partly owl-like in structure and partly like swifts, having affinities to both. Needless to say, their second name is founded in a fiction. Like Owls, they are chiefly nocturnal in their habits. They make strange noises; sometimes with a harsh, metallic ring, hence their name. Strangers to the bush are sometimes surprised at dusk by hearing voices calling from all sides in mournful tones, "Who are you?" This is the *Nyctidromus albicollis*, which is very common in open places.

Night-Jars frequent the open, laying eggs on the bare ground. There they crouch during the day and will almost allow themselves to be trodden upon before moving off. They do not perch upon trees, but will lie along the branches. Their plumage is soft, and moth-like in colour. Their eggs are mottled with purple. They feed on moths and beetles which they pursue with open mouths; their gape is enormous and is generally beset with strong bristles.

Certain species of the genus *Chordiles* are semi-diurnal and may sometimes be seen chasing their prey with vigour in in broad daylight. There are twenty-three genera and one hundred and forty-nine species.

The *Jay* is our solitary example of its kind and has no affinities in this colony. Its habits are not known. The European Jay feeds on berries, fruit, young birds, and eggs, and in England has almost been exterminated on account of the depredations it makes in orchards and pheasant runs. It builds its nest of twigs and roots and therein lays from four to seven eggs of a light green colour closely freckled with olive. Our Colony Jay has probably similar habits. Of the Crow tribe, there are some forty genera and some two hundred and eighty species, of which about sixty species belong to the New World.

Owls (Colonial). *Strigiformes.*

Owls—	
Large eared Owl	*Bubo virginianus.*
Small-eared Owl	*Asio clamator*
†Sharp-sighted Owl.	*Pulsatrix perspicillata*
Collared Owl	*Pulsatrix torquata.*
Scops Owl	*Scops brasiliana.*
Scops Roraima Owl	,, *roraimae.*
*Tufted Scops Owl	,, *atricapilla.*
Guatemalan Scops Owl.	,, *guatemalae.*
Scops Small-eared Owl	,, *asio.*
†Hawk-Owl	*Ciccaba virgata.*

Brown Owl	*Ciccaba huhula.*
Moth Owlet	*Glaucidium phalaenoides.*
Burrowing Owl	*Speotyto cunicularia.*
Screech Owl (Barn Owl)	*Strix flammea.*
Steatornithidae	*Strix perlata.*
The Oil-bird (?)	*Steatornis caripensis.*
NIGHT-JARS (*Caprimulgidae*).—	
The Great Night-jar (or goat-sucker)	*Nyctibius grandis.*
Jamaican Night-jar (or goat-sucker)	,, *jamaicensis.*
Long-tailed Night-jar	,, *longicaudatus.*
Sharp-winged Night-jar	*Chordiles acutipennis.*
*Grey-rumped Night-jar	*Nyctiprogne leucopyga.*
Fleecy Night-jar	*Podager nacunda.*
Schomburgh's Night-jar (water-scissors)	*Hydropsalis schomburghi.*
White-Collared Night-jar	*Lurocalis semitorquatus.*
Who are you? Night-jar (Night-flyer)	*Nyctidromus albicollis.*
Guiana Night-jar (narrow-faced)	*Stenopsis cayennensis.*
†Red-necked Night-jar	,, *ruficervix.*
Small Black Night-jar	*Caprimulgus nigrescens.*
Small Red Night-jar	,, *rufus.*
CROWS (*Corvidae*)—	
The Guiana Jay	*Cyanocorax cayanus.*
*Purple Jay (?)	,, *violaceus.*

(*To be continued*).

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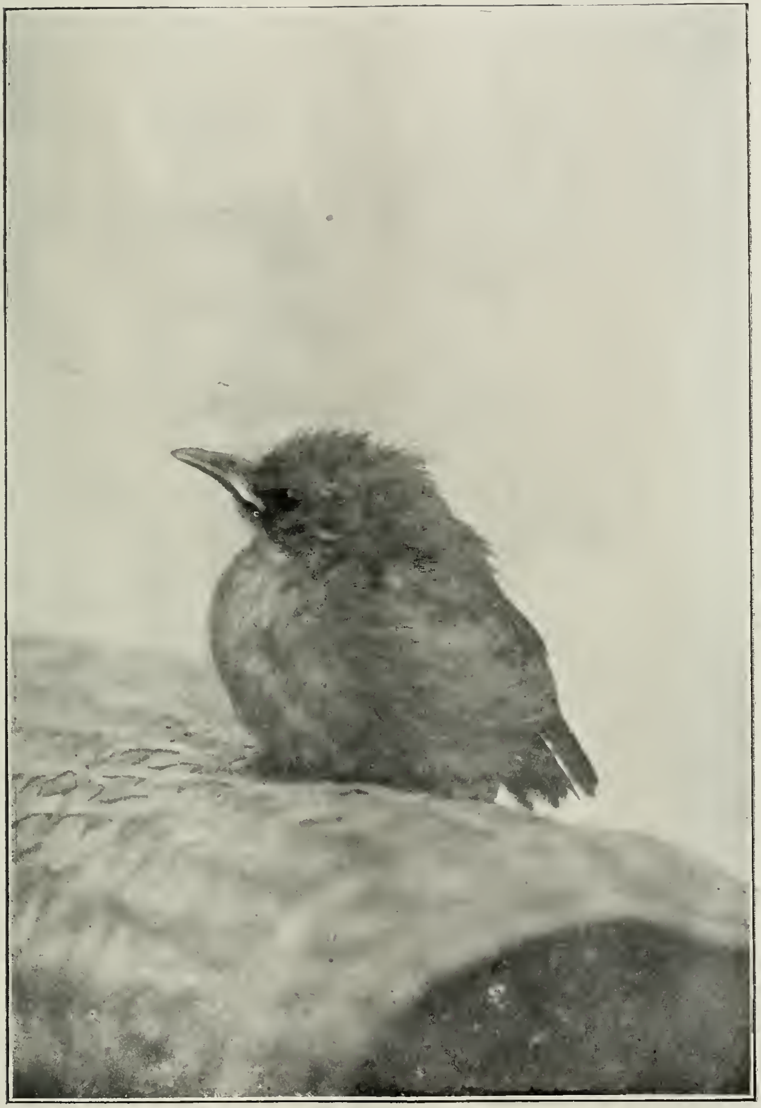
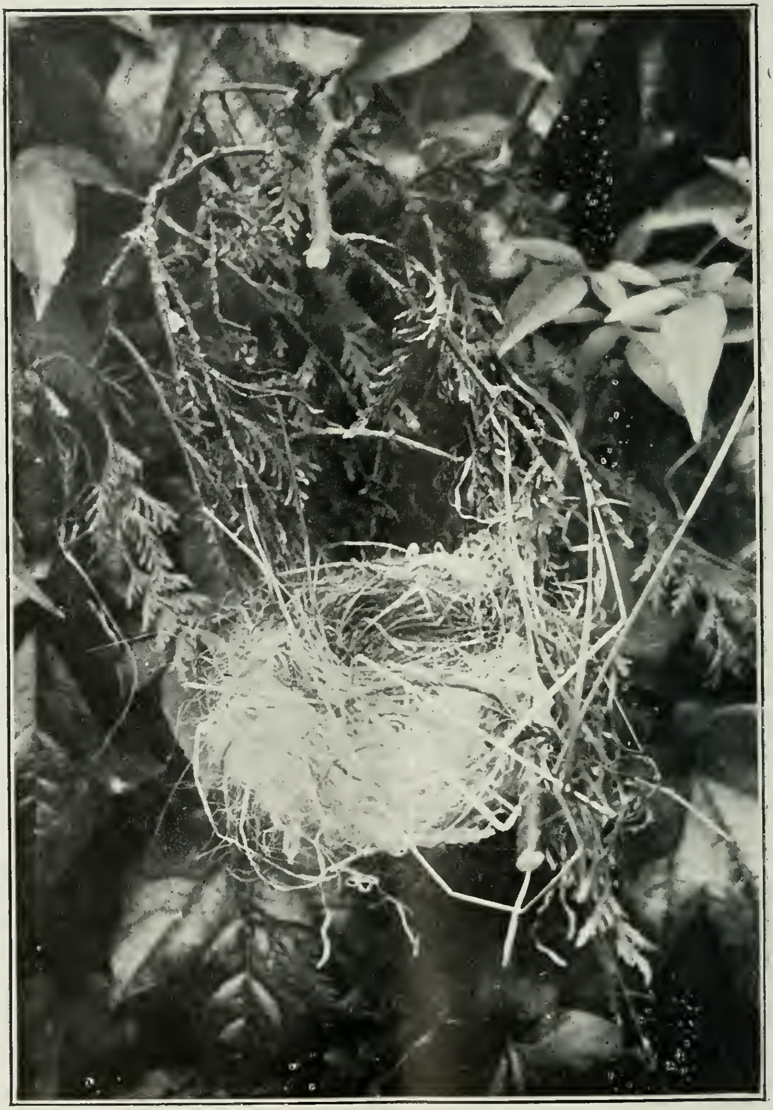
Editorial.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA PARRAKEETS: Corrigenda.—Our note upon this species was made almost meaningless by the omission of part of a sentence—owing to the exigencies of time we were unable to read revise proofs and thus the error remained uncorrected. In line 7 of this paragraph, after "aviculturists" insert *has tended to prove that the majority of Australian psittaci are quite hardy, but this winter.* We may further add that the, one time considered delicate Bourke's Parrakeet is also hardy and can be successfully wintered out of doors. Of course it is obvious that all new acquisitions should be nursed into a state of good health before being turned out.

YOUNG YELLOW-WINGED SUGARBIRD: We reproduce photos of a young *Coereba cyanea* and the nest it was reared in; taken in the aviary of Miss E. F. Chawner, till it was fully



Young Yellow-wing Sugarbird.



Nest of Yellow-wing Sugarbird.

fledged, but died before it was able to fend for itself. It was indeed hard lines to have come so near to success, and yet to fall just short of it. We sympathise with her in the keen disappointment which must have been hers, when this young bird died, but she has the satisfaction of knowing that she has got nearer to complete success than any other aviculturist hitherto. At the moment of going to press we are given the following details: The young Sugarbird was hatched on July 29th, left the nest on August 8th, and died on August 31st. It lived to feed itself but could not be called fully reared. This bird came from the second nest, the first brood died just after leaving the nest. The nest was built of tow and paper shavings, chiefly the latter, in a fork of a cypress bough.

The eggs, two in number, were large, and buff-coloured, with a few spots and markings at the larger end.

We regret to learn that the parent birds have succumbed to the long and trying winter, so there appears to be no probability of complete success being attained with this species during the present season.

Correspondence.

TO ABOLISH RATS AND MICE.

Sir,—Some three years ago I erected an out-door aviary which soon attracted large numbers of mice and some rats. For a considerable time I was quite nonplussed as to how to get rid of these pests, but on the advice of a medical friend I procured a box of a certain patent poison called Extirmo which I have found so effectual that I haven't a single mouse or rat left, indoors or out. This is saying a great deal, for previously my stable, farmyard and fowl-house were so infested with rats that they got nearly all my young chickens. The poison is in the form of a paste, and all one has to do is to spread some on a slice, of new bread cut half an inch thick After covering this with a coating of flour, cut it into two-inch squares, and at dusk lay these squares about on the ground mostly frequented by the rats. Next morning move the pieces not consumed. Lay down a fresh supply each night until the last rat is accounted for. For mice instead of bread use small pieces of sweet biscuit. The way in which the poison is said to act is that it establishes a bleaching action which consumes the flesh and organs until nothing is left save the dry pelt in a completely inoffensive condition. I may say that my experience of it completely bears out this assertion, for no offensive results have ever ensued from the use of it about my premises.

I shall be delighted to impart the address of the makers of Extirmo to those of your readers who care to send me a stamped and addressed postcard.

Hazeleigh Rectory, Maldon GILBERT RAYNOR

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Obituary.

DR. HENRY HETLEY, J.P.—We regret having to announce the death of Dr. Hetley, a valued member of the Club and its Council, who passed away, at his residence, Upper Norwood, on April 13th. He became a member in 1908, and two years later was elected to the Council. He was keenly interested in feathered and all wild life. His principal successes were the successful breeding of Crimson and Ringed Finches in cages, his successes with these two species being the first and we believe, the only times these two species have been bred in cages. He was in his 66th year and will be greatly missed by a large circle of fanciers and aviculturists. To Mrs. Hetley and family we tender sincere sympathy in their great bereavement.

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British Bird Calendar

April 19.—Wryneck, Maldon.
,, 22.—Cuckoo, Hazeleigh, Wind N. 10 a.m.
,, 23—Swallow, Danbury, Wind E. 6 p.m.
,, 26.—Chiff-chaff, Hazeleigh, Wind N. 3 p.m.
,, 26.—Nightingale, Hazeleigh. Wind N. 5 p.m.
May 4.—Spotted Flycatcher, Hazeleigh, Wind S., 11 a.m.
,, 5.—Garden Warbler; Hazeleigh. Wind N.E. 9 a.m.
,, 5.—Tree Pipit, Hazeleigh. 10 a.m.
,, 9.—Blackcap, Hazeleigh. Wind E. 11 a.m.

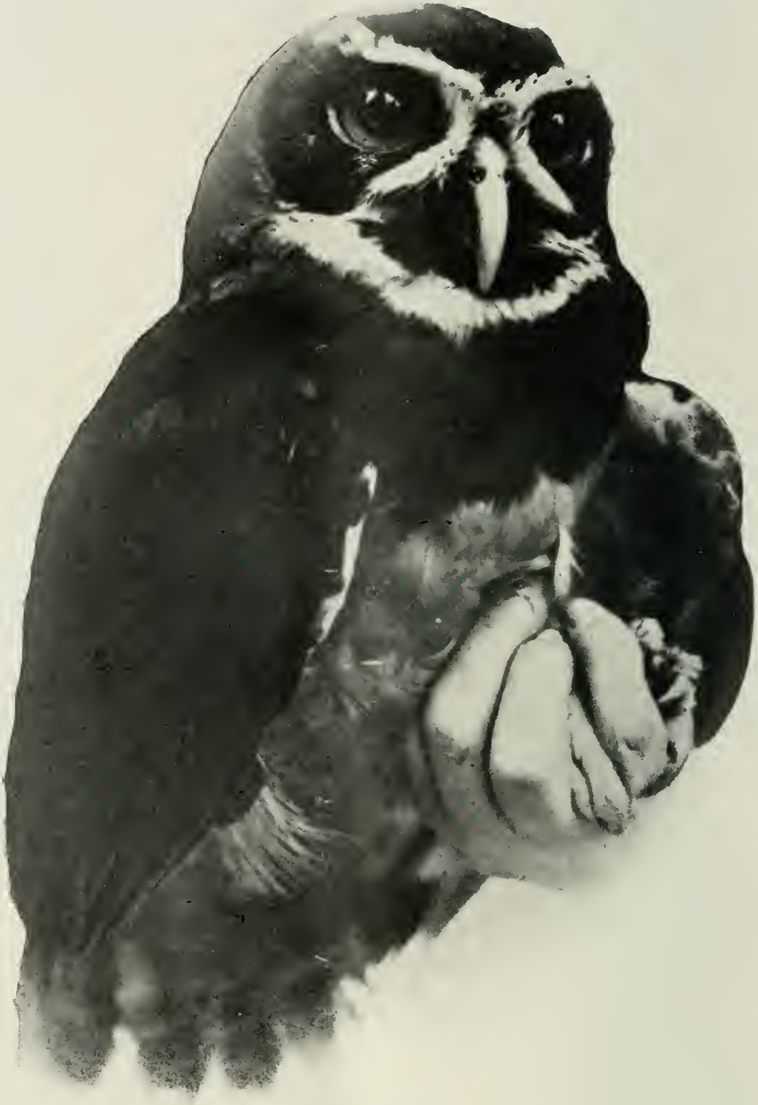
Owing to the severe weather most of these dates are later than usual, the only remarkable fact being that the cuckoo arrived first of all, except the Wryneck. G.H.R., Hazeleigh, May 5-'17.

April 16.—Cuckoo, Lingfield Common, noon.
,, 16.—Wryneck, Lingfield Common, 9 a.m.

A.T., Lingfield, April 20-'17.

,, 17.—Cuckoo, Lingfield Village, 9-30 a.m.
,, 18.—Tree Creeper, Lingfield Village, 10 a.m.
,, 20.—Swift, Lingfield Village, 8 a.m.
,, 20.—Chiff-chaff, Lingfield Village, noon.
, 24.—Garden Warbler, Lingfield Village, 10 a.m.

Heard or seen in my garden. W.T.P. Lingfield.



"BOGEY"—The Spectacled Owl.

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BIRD NOTES:

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JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Spectacled Owl.

Syrnium perspicillatum.

By MISS E. F. CHAWNER.

Last July I received a specimen of this fine Owl, which now is not often imported to this country, though at one time it was well known in the Zoological Gardens of London, and called there the Downy Owl. This name does not well describe it, for several other kinds of owls have a more downy appearance than this rather close-feathered bird.

The Spectacled Owl is widely spread over Central and Northern S. America and is a purely tropical species. It has the reputation of being naturally tame, which my bird fully bears out. The day after his arrival he sidled along his perch and held down his head, as a Parrot does, when inviting a friend " to scratch a poll " and with the same object, for nothing gives him greater pleasure than to have his head scratched with a finger or a bit of stick. He is absolutely fearless and perfectly gentle, and has evidently been much petted. When he arrived he was in good plumage but his first wash showed that he had a good deal of dirt to get rid of. He uses his bath freely, and has a curious habit of dipping his face into water after feeding His voice is gruff, something between a growl and a hoarse chuckle; combined with his oddly marked face and big yellow black pupilled eyes the effect is rather startling, and makes one feel that his name " Bogey " is well bestowed.

The photograph gives such a good idea of his appearance that I need only say that his back is not black, but the shade known as " *tête de nègre*," and his breast and under parts tan. He was annoyed at being made to pose and would not stand up, so the photograph does not show his height; he stands rather higher than our Tawny Owl and is rather a larger bird. His diet is the same as that of my other owls. Though a tropical bird he seems quite indifferent to cold and has stood this hard winter without turning a hair.

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Across the Channel.

Somewhere in France.

By Lieut. Frank Dawson-Smith.

I am scribbling a few notes how and when I can, just to show I have not forgotten my " Bird Notes " among other other pleasant items left behind in Blighty. As it is all written more or less under difficulties I must rely upon you to excuse any defects of composition or rounded periods.

I am not going to write about the war. In the first place it is a forbidden subject, and also you can read all about it in your daily paper better than I can describe it in this. No, I am going to tell you about the myriad birds I have encountered since I came out to the front. I wish I could make you visualize the tremendous contrasts one is brought face to face with when marching long distances. The contrast, for instance, between the war-scarred areas, and the little villages which lie like jewels, in the emerald setting of spring, far from the voice of the guns. And the variety of birds make a strong appeal to an aviculturist like myself. Magpies are extraordinarily common, particularly in a certain place which has been utterly destroyed by the Huns, not a wall left standing now! Round here the long-tailed black and white magpie met us at every turn, and his nests of sticks were prominent objects in tree and hedge. I climbed up to several nests which contained eggs, the old bird sitting very close, and evidently understanding that I came as a friend meaning no harm. One nest I had under observation for quite a long time as it was in a tree close to my billet—a ruined barn. This, by the way, was quite "*bon*," except one night when a thunderstorm let loose a torrent of rain, waking me out of a deep sleep and a dream of " Blighty."

Not a pleasant experience! However, I stumbled up and dragged an oil sheet over myself, and waited until I could slumber again. Little worries like that are common enough just now, and no one bothers. It's all in the day's work, so let's carry on with the birds. Of course rooks and crows are much in evidence, and can be seen picking up their food in the fields while their grey-headed relative, the jackdaw, abounds also. Of the game birds there are numerous partridges about, almost always in couples, and evidently paired off for the breeding season, the cock's voice being heard calling vociferously. About the end of April I saw the first swallows, rather late this year, but always welcome as harbingers of spring, their forked tails and graceful bodies speeding through the air as they sought their insect food. Martins, the white on the rump and underparts rendering them conspicuous, appeared in the early part of May, and they soon got to work building their nests when they found a suitable spot. Kestrel hawks are not uncommon, and I have often observed them hovering overhead in their characteristic style. The ubiquitous spàrrow, and the familiar robin with his scarlet vest, were everywhere. Larks sang their glorious pæan of song as they rose higher and ever higher and thrilled one with the sudden thought :—

"*Hark, hark, the lark at Heaven's gate sings,*"

heedless of the roar of the guns not far away where grim war is making hell in the fair land of France. Just here I saw another kind of bird—a German aeroplane—come to earth! Flying high it was struck by an anti-aircraft shell and came toppling down, turning over and over in its descent, and taking a long time on the journey, because of its great height from the earth when struck.

Then again, we received orders to shift to fresh quarters. For a fortnight we passed through villages unspoilt by the Hun, staying for odd days at farm houses on the way. Our march lay principally through glorious woods, dressed in different shades of green, cool and inviting, bathed in sunshine, making a picture such as only Nature herself can print. How glad everything seemed! Never a sound of guns or warfare; only the carolling of birds. Every step of the way, unlike the war-blasted area, was lined with blossom, apple and pear, &c,

And marching through the green, smiling country with new life budding everywhere, one's thoughts flew to those other young lives, planted in the ground with myriad crosses to mark the spot where some gallant lad lies in his last long sleep, having made the great sacrifice for King and country.

> " *Lie green upon their graves, O happy spring,*
> *For they were eager, young, and full of life.*"

I don't know the author of those words but, to me, they are very beautiful.

But, to the birds again. The harsh cry of the jay mingled with the clear melody of the thrush as we marched. The sombre-hued blackbird, and the chaffinch with cheerful song proclaimed " God's in His Heaven, all's right with the world." I found the nest of a chaffinch, in a low tree, with eggs in it. The small, elegant structure, matched the colour of the bark. Our next halt was in a village, a gem set in the midst of exquisite woodland. My billet was in a little thatched cottage, quite English-looking. My room opened on to the most delightful garden imaginable. It stood, secluded, in a sort of holy calm, a haven of rest and peace amid birds and flowers. A big apple tree flourished and its blossom ran riot over the branches. At the far end was a tiny copse where a Nightingale lived and sang his lone songs. I have heard many Nightingales out here, but in the little cottage where I sat in the evening the trills of the little brown bird, seemed more gloriously melodious than ever before. During the day a cuckoo was insistently repeating his name. He was never visible to me, but sometimes quite near and then farther. And, as if to complete the choir of Nature, a wood pigeon was cooing to his mate, in harmony with all. I envied the possession of this Eden-like garden, which was owned and tended by the good old French woman who lived in the cottage and went about her daily duties so quietly and contentedly. By and by, when the sun had sunk, and the shadows grew, when the bird voices were silent and Nature slept, then the moon rose like a signal for the tawny owl to begin his nightly serenade of " hoo-hoo-ing."

> " *We know not alway who are the kings of the day*
> *But the king of the night is the bold brown owl.*"

Early next morning we were aroused and marched to another village, passing through a splendid wood *en route*. It was a feast for the artistic eye, brilliant in its spring dress of myriad hues of green, blending with anemones, violets, hyacinths, and some horse chestnut trees in full blossom. We halted outside the wood near an orchard, and here I caught sight of a wryneck trying to keep out of sight. A couple of blue tits were busy in the branches of a tree, turning upside down and clinging to twigs in all sorts of fantastic positions. A spotted flycatcher, from a point of vantage, took many short flights, returning after having accounted for his insect prey. In a cage a greater whitethroat, was threading its way, its brownish back and whitish underparts being easily seen. Here also we heard the somewhat harsher note of the missel thrush, a common bird out here. When we continued our march, a swallow-tailed butterfly settled quite close. This was the first living example of the species I have ever seen, but it was unmistakable. I saw birds of many kinds all through the march. The " laugh " of the green woodpecker was frequent, and the bird itself once flew across our path, as if to show us its undulating flight. Pied Wagtails walked about seeking their food on the ground, and looking graceful, as always. And, as if to introduce an added touch of colour, a pair of yellow hammers perched on the top of a bush, a position which shewed off their golden plumage to advantage.

We passed through many other villages in the days that followed and, gradually growing louder and more sinister came the sullen roar of the guns, and then once more we were in the midst of the sights, as well as the sounds of war. So you see, each day brings some interest to the observant eye. Sometimes peaceful scenes and sometimes the reverse. Nature takes little notice of war, and carries on in sublime optimism. One comes across rookeries where shells hurtle daily, the birds apparently indifferent.

Perhaps one of the most striking facts is the unconquerable cheeriness of " Tommy Atkins " under all circumstances. He may be tired to exhaustion, footsore and weary, and absolutely " fed up " after a hard day of physical and mental strain, but he is never too tired or depressed to appreciate the humour of some subject. He can always find something to make him "keep smiling," or to help a march on by his lusty singing of some popular melody such as "The Broken Doll" or "Tennessee."

I am glad the club magazine is still carrying on despite the manifold difficulties which must be encumbering editor and printer. I always devour its pages when I get home on leave, and look up the back numbers which have accumulated in my absence. And now, having come to the end of my time, and perhaps yours, too, I will conclude and, in Tommy's vernacular say, "Dear Mr. Editor, this comes hoping you are quite well, as I am about the same—and in the pink."

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Birds of Queensland.

The following interesting notes of the birds and other fauna of Queensland are from the pen of Mr. A. Weston, of Brisbane.

There are about 740 different birds in Australia, and of those there are over 600 in Queensland, including a number unknown in the other states.

In the crocodile and cassowary we have the largest animal and bird on this continent, and we are the sole owners of the two finest rifle birds and three bower birds. Queensland alone receives the annual migratory birds from New Guinea, the Torres Straits pigeon, the silver-tail kingfisher, and the metallic starling. I have seen these landing at Cape York on their way south in hundreds and thousands.

Very singular is the distribution of many of our birds. The cassowary comes south to the Herbert River and stops within 50 miles of Cape York.

The wonga pigeon is not known north of Mackay, and Broadbent, the best of all our bird authorities, told me he had never seen one north of Broadsound. The scrub turkey ranges from the scrubs of Illawarra right to Cape York, a distance of over 2,000 miles.

The emu is everywhere in Queensland, and I saw six of them within three miles of Cape York. Frank Jardine told me the kangaroo was not seen within 60 miles of the Cape. The plain turkey is also everywhere, from the far west plains to the islands along the coast, and north to Cape York.

I have seen them south of the Lower Paroo, and north of the Duchess River. The native companion, jabiroo, nankeen heron, the redbill, the black and white gooda extend from south to north. Our friend the laughing jackass is unknown in far western Queensland, and so are the bandicoot and kangaroo rat. The swan is not seen north of the Burdekin, but he goes west into the lakes of Central Australia. We have only one of the three lyre birds (*Menura Alberti*), and he is not reported north of Tambourine Mountain, though blacks have told me he is in the scrubs of the Bunya Mountains. He is the shyest of all our birds. The black, and wood ducks, the whistler, and the pigmy goose go north to near Cape York.

The first Queensland bird killed by a white man was a bustard, weighing 17 lbs., shot by one of Captain Cook's men a Bustard Head in 1770.

The South Queensland rifle bird is unknown in the north. The Victoria rifle bird is not found south of the Herbert River, where I shot a couple for the Museum in 1896.

The stone plover (night curlew), and spur-wing plover are from south to north.

Only in the Museum can the vast majority of the people see the Queensland birds, as they have no chance of seeing more than a fraction of them alive. Most mournful of all is the inevitable fate of our scrub birds, which have to perish with the scrubs. The scrub turkey, the wonga, and all the fruit-eating pigeons are doomed, except where they may be preserved by protection in bird reserves, and we want these reserves, numerous and extensive, and under laws mercilessly stringent.

The Lamington Plateau reserve of 40,000 acres is a noble beginning, and should be followed at once by Stradbroke, Fraser's Island, and the South Keppel.

Very singular is the fact that the wonga and the scrub turkey are unknown in the magnificent scrub on Fraser's Island, though common on the adjoining mainland. The mound building scrub hen of North Queensland is unknown anywhere south. The Torres Straits pigeon has been seen south of Broadsound.

Fraser's Island, with its 650 square miles, would form a splendid and ideal sanctuary for our native birds and animals. It would first be necessary to exterminate the dingoes which are everywhere, the true original bushy-tailed, pointed-eared, yellow-skinned "warrigal." New Zealand's chief bird and animal preserve is on an island. There are many wallabies, but no kangaroos on Fraser's Island.

All the explorers—Leichhardt, Gregory, Jardine, Landsborough, Hodgkinson, J. G. M'Donald, and Hume—record incredible quantities of game. A surveyor named Francis Grundey was surveying at the mouth of the Brisbane River, in 1851, and in his highly interesting book he mentions the whole river and shores of the bay, and the flats near Fisherman Island, as covered with myriads of ducks, geese, and swans, and the "ducks rising in clouds which darkened the sun."

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Bird Life in the Firing Line.

By Dr. N. S. Lucas, R.A.M.C

I had your last number of "Bird Notes" out here and saw in it your urgent appeal for more copy. To-day (May 25, 1917), is the anniversary of my having seen service in France for two months; if that can be an anniversary, and if my bird experiences during that period are of any general interest you are at liberty to publish them. I append a list of the birds I have seen myself during that period and a few others which have been seen by reliable people in that time. Most of the birds were seen near Peronne, those observed since are marked with an asterisk, though I cannot tell you where.

First I had better give you a description of the country near Peronne. The town itself is mostly ruins. It is situated by the Somme, which is a peculiar river, in that it meanders about through marshes. There is a great deal of flood, too, owing to the canal bank being broken. On the outskirts are a lot of small gardens, with birds, of course, and beyond, the river stretches of what was once corn land but is now covered with rough long grass.

When I arrived at Peronne the weather was very cold with frequent snow storms, which was not good either for birds or bird watching. Among the first birds I saw were a thrush, the only one I have seen, a robin, to which the same remark applies, blackbirds, and starlings, and of course the magpie. I say " of course " because the magpie is one of the commonest birds about. It would be very easy to get a nestling and bring it up, but they are dirty birds, and as an M.O. I have to set an example in sanitation, so, I fear, it is no good. They often build very much lower than they do in England, sometimes not more than 8 feet from the ground.

The first bird which was in the least out of the ordinary, which I saw was a fine specimen of the green woodpecker. He was in a little copse by the river. I saw him on the same day as I saw the first of the migrants, which was a pair of chiffchaffs. They were in the same copse.

The fields beyond the river contained partridges in large numbers, and many kestrels, also skylarks and pipits. I have found the nest of the former. The wheatears were also seen there. I saw the owl, in broad daylight, flopping about round an apology for a hedge in one of the fields. I think it was a tawny owl, but I cannot be sure, as my horse suddenly broke into a fast canter and demanded my full atention past some old shell holes. The hooded crow I did not see in Peronne, but appropriately in most desolate country, devastated in the push last autumn. The commonest water bird is the coot, which are to be seen in parties of twenty or thirty. The dabchick was only seen once. The black redstart was building, high up in a ruined house in Peronne. The whole of one side and most of another had been blown out and the birds were building in a niche in one of the ruined rooms. I could not actually see where, as I had no glasses with me. Reed warblers are very common round Peronne, with their funny mixture of song and croaks. Unfortunately I left too early to find the nest; the army has really no consideration for a keen ornithologist! It was the greater reed warbler.

I do not think I ought to leave out a few remarks about the swallows, martins, and swifts. Last year you published an article dealing with them. I fully bear out the opinions of the writer, whose name I unfortunately forget. The swallows and martins make the fullest use of the nesting places afforded by the ruins and are very numerous indeed. They are very tame and come into such houses as are left, and build there freely. In the mess-room, (a former stable) of some officers, whom I visit daily, there are four pairs of swallows in various stages of building and sitting. They pay no attention at all to people coming in and out; the room is, of course, used in the evening. This morning, however, I am told one family took it into their heads to throw out their eggs. Unfortunately it was the nest above the breakfast table, the time breakfast and the eggs hard set! It could not have been any disturbance as they promptly began to nest again. This, unfortunately, is common enough in the aviary but I have not heard of it before with birds at liberty. Swifts were common in Peronne but not here, where there are no tall buildings.

I am attached to the Divisional R.E. and in one of the field companies are two members of the F.B.C., Messrs. Henderson and Bassett, of Tonbridge. I am glad to say that they are both fit and well. We talk " bird " together vigorously. The sergt. major of another company is a keen naturalist both with regard to birds and butterflies and moths. He showed me the nest of a garden warbler, containing two eggs, also the bird only this morning, and the nest and eggs of a common redstart in the wall of his billet. So I am among congenial people.

I am sorry to have to state that E. P. Card, who used to look after our birds at Bramblehurst, died as a prisoner of war during the winter. In the following list of birds which I have seen, those marked (*) at Peronne and elsewhere, and the few marked (‡) were seen by other reliable observants.

Kestrel
Lesser Kestrel
Crow
*Hooded Crow
Magpie.
Jay.
Owl, Tawny
Coot
Moorhen
Dabchick
Wild Duck

Wren
Hedge Sparrow
Wheatear
Willow Wren
Chiff Chaff
Chaffinch
Skylark
Whitethroat
*Garden Warbler
Reed Warbler
Yellow Hammer

Sandpiper.
Partridge
Swift
Swallow
Martin
Yellow Wagtail
Pied Wagtail
Sparrow
Thrush
Robin
Blackbird
Starling
Linnet
Black Redstart
Spotted Flycatcher
*Pied Flycatcher
Wood Pigeon
Turtle Dove
Woodpecker
‡Nightingale
‡Great Tit
‡Longtailed Tit
‡Missel Thrush
‡Little Owl

◆

Early Experiences.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S. Etc.

(Continued from page 75).

Foods: *Insects*—In the early days I knew nothing of mealworms, live ants' eggs, gentles, etc., save as existing in a state of nature, to be sought for and collected in a semi-rural garden, and the nearest hedgerows. Most of my insect provender at this period was collected by means of an entomological sweep-net and much was the heterogeneous collection of larvæ and insects enjoyed by the birds, and with what avidity they ransacked the rubbish (bits of grass, herbage, etc.) amid which the insects were concealed, when a handful was placed in cage or aviary; but as time went on and the exchequer grew larger and my time more filled up, I learned of commercial supplies and procured these, but I must admit that my breeding successes were not as numerous (mostly British species kept in these days) as when they were fed with freshly collected wild live food. For those living in the country, or having the range of a large garden, probabilities of success will be greatly enhanced, if the mealworms, etc., of commerce, be supplemented by the sweeping net and hand gathered larvæ and pupæ and imagos of all kinds of insect pests that infest our gardens. Blight, green-fly and the like, is easily gathered from bushes and herbage, by brushing it into a small box, or bottle containing a few leaves with a small mop camel-hair brush. In these days, with the shortage of all commercial supplies of live insects, dwellers in the country should be quite independent of such supplies, as in addition to the sources indicated above, gentles and mealworms may be bred, also clothes and similar moths—the last named can be bred anywhere, as also can mealworms, as with care the process occasions no offensive odour, but the rearing quarters of the first named must be situated at some distance from the dwelling-house, or frequented garden paths. Perhaps I had better give brief methods of procedure before commenting on other foods.

Breeding Gentles: The breeding receptacles should be of metal—empty biscuit tins make good store boxes—a sanitary dust-bin makes a good first receptacle. Other utensils required will be, a couple of G. I. pails, a box large enough for them to stand in and a cover for this box, consisting of a light wooden frame to fit it like a lid, over which half-inch mesh wire netting is to be stretched; also a fine mesh sieve. Stand the box in a sunny out of the way corner of the garden, then procure sufficient meat, poultry, game, and fish offal to fill one of the pails, place it in the box and put on the netting covered lid; three days later procure offal for the second pail and put that with the first. As soon as the first filled pail is alive with gentles take it out. The dust-bin will now be required, put six to twelve inches of sand in the bottom, place the coarse sieve over the top, and empty the gentle-filled offal into the sieve; in a short time the gentles will have passed through the sieve into the sand at bottom of dust-bin, the process can be aided by turning over the offal occasionally. The pail should be refilled with offal and placed back in the propagator. The offal when all the gentles have passed from it, should be buried where it will help to fertilize growing crops. The gentles in the dust-bin should be left for a couple of days, when they should be sifted from the sand and put into the store tins in fresh sand, sifting them into fresh sand again every other day—when the gentles are white right through they are ready for use. The store tins should be kept in as cool quarters as possible and will not now be offensive. By so treating the pails in rotation a continuous supply can be easily maintained, and the operation is not nearly so formidable in practice as it appears on paper.

Breeding Mealworms:—Procure either some fully grown mealworms or beetles, and put them into some metal receptacle, which has been previously prepared by being one-third filled with waste seed and bran, and then on top of this some loosely screwed up newspaper and folded pieces of sacking (the latter *slightly* damped with porter). If the bin is placed in some warm dry place, where the temperature does not fall below 60 degrees Far., propagation will be fairly rapid, and all that will be needed will be the adding of more bran—say monthly. As soon as it is established there will be plenty of mealworms among the sacking and paper, from which they can be easily picked for daily supplies. If the meal at bottom of the bin be not disturbed it will be productive for some years. If the supply required be large it will be best to have two or three bins to use in rotation. The process is not an offensive one, if the bins are kept in a warm dry room—but if cool and damp the contents of the bin sweat, ferment, and become foul and rotten. The lid of ordinary dust-bins is sufficient to confine the mealworms and usually leaves them all the air required.

Breeding Moths:—Place some skins, fur and maize, in metal boxes, with their lids open, where moths frequent, until they become thoroughly moth eaten, or maggots freely appear, then remove the boxes and close their lids and in a short time you will have a liberal supply of maggots, and the boxes continue productive for two or three years, or longer. No offensive odour is given off.

Breeding Flies:—Get some wide necked glass bottles or jars and place one or two over-ripe split bananas in each; leave them standing in the sun in some fly-frequented spot for a few days, then cover the mouths of the bottles with fine butter-muslin, keeping them in a sunny position. As soon as flies appear therein, the bottles can be placed in cage or aviary, the muslin covers removed, and as the flies escape from the bottles they are captured by the birds; as soon as all the flies have escaped replace the covers on the bottles, and the next day these will again be full of flies, and usually continue productive throughout the season. There is no offensive odour, even if the bottles be kept in the bird-room. Our member Mr. A Ezra adopts this method for securing flies for his humming birds.

In the dahlia season earwigs should prove a valuable adjunct to the live food menu. They are also valuable, being so easily trapped, killed by *sudden* immersion in *boiling* water and then stirred into the moistened insectile mixture.

Insectile mixture (Soft-food): In the early days this was very primitive. I made "German Paste" according to the recognised formula, and supplemented this with moistened bread and cake crumbs, covering same with plant lice, little maw seed and captured insects killed in boiling water. Ordinary sweetened boiled bread and milk also formed part of the *menu*, and all through my avicultural experience, I have been and still am, a great believer in its merits, as one of the indispensible items of the *menu* for both hard-, and soft-bills. Later on I bought some of the ready-made insectile mixture, but did not follow this practice for long, soon commencing to prepare my own on the more modern lines. For the basis of the mixture I have used either crushed dog-biscuit, or finely ground game meal, changing them about, and used to add to these finely ground crissel and ants' "eggs." As time progressed other things were added thereto, fruit essence, dried flies, ground pupæ meal; but all through I have adhered to the practice, whenever possible, of adding a portion of freshly killed insects to the supply of moistened mixture. A good present day mixture, naming only items stocked by most dealers, consists of: 2 parts (by measure only) crushed dog biscuit (best obtainable) and one part of dried flies, ants' eggs, ground silkworm pupæ and finely ground crissel—this mixture will keep indefinitely if put into a dust tight receptacle and stored in a dry place.

For use take the required portion, add from ten drops to one teaspoonful of cod-liver oil emulsion according to quantity to be mixed, then sufficient boiling water to make the whole crumbly moist. A four-pronged fork makes an excellent mixing utensil. Grated cheese is also a wholesome item to add after the mixture has been moistened, and cake crumbs may be similarly added. For the more delicate and purely insectivorous species, increase the bulk of dried flies and ants' eggs in the mixture.

Milk-sop:—Old time method was to boil fresh milk and bread up together in a pannikin, then pour into a dish and stir into a little honey; now I coarsely crumb bread or sponge cake into a basin, add one tablespoonful of condensed milk, one teaspoonful of honey, and then fill up the basin (medium size) with *boiling* water, and well stir, and supply to the birds while lukewarm.

Seeds:—I have always supplied three mixtures, but sometimes have combined the three in one mixture, though, except with caged birds the former practice is the more preferable. (1) Canary, white and Indian millet seeds. (2) Hemp niger, safflower, and sunflower seeds. (3) Wild seeds. In these days, while prices continue as they are, it is well to increase the quantity of canary seed and lessen the bulk of millet. Millet sprays, too, are costly, but these are greatly favoured by certain species—waxbills, gouldian finches, etc.—and it is well, especially at nesting time, to keep up a supply.

Greenfood:—I have regularly supplied all kinds of garden and hedgerow weeds indiscriminately, omitting only those of known poisonous properties. All kinds of flowering and seeding heads of indigenous grasses are very valuable, as also are dock, thistle, teazel, and many others—while leaves, flowers, and seed-heads of shepherd's purse, chickweed, groundsel, dandelion, sorrel, etc., if gathered when the plant consists of leaves, flowers and half-ripe seeds, are greedily eaten while fresh as also are the dried seeds later on—many others besides those named.

In all mixed aviaries continuous supplies of grit, not sand only, but flint grit, cuttlebone, and rock salt should be maintained.

In the foregoing, I have interpolated present practice, with the "early experiences," hoping to make these notes of more general use thereby.

(To be continued).

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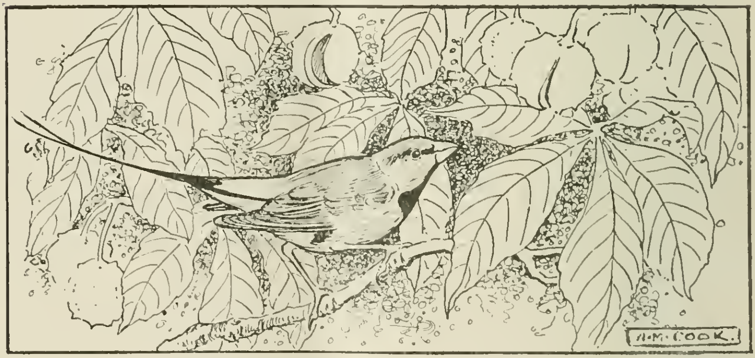
Aviary Notes, 1917.

By H. E. Bright.

In consequence of the severe winter and unseasonable spring my birds were not turned out till May, excepting in the case of a few ultra-hardy species.

Australian Finches.—Of these there are quite a small crowd and nearly all these are busy nesting—including Long-tails, Rufous-tails, Cherry, Bicheno's Diamond, Masked, Parson and Zebra Finches, also Yellow-rumped and Chestnut-breasted Mannikins, the latter though are not quite through the moult. Gouldian Finches are pairing but have not yet seen them building anywhere. Of course, it is as yet, too early to give any details of their operations. Parrot Finches are also building, but alas! seldom rear any young; hope in this respect the 1917 season may be a record one in my aviaries.

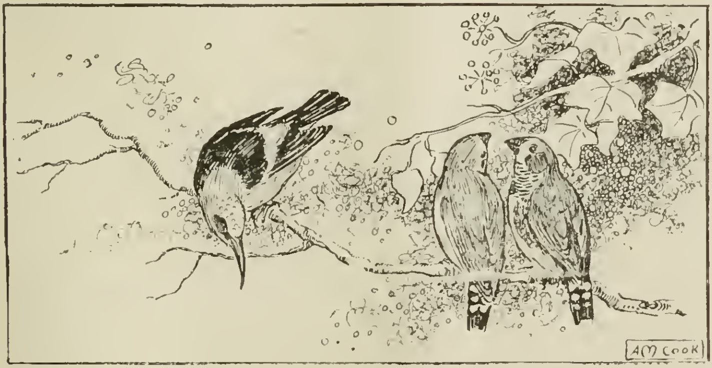


Long-tailed Grassfinch.

Indian Species.—Avadavats, Three-colour Mannikins, Malabar Mynahs, Goldfinches, etc., are either building or sitting. The Goldfinches, both pairs, are feeding their respective mates, and I think, have nests but I cannot see them actually at work, though they keep about all the time. The Himalayan Bulfinches are in fine form but not nesting up to the present (May 4th).

Africans.—I have quite a number of these, all of which are looking very fit and have come through the trying winter well in their unheated room. Black-faced Quail Finches are very interesting, they have built nests and laid eggs with me on several occasions, but have not, as yet, attained complete success. This year they have built an excellent nest, in a nice dry spot on th top of a bank. The nest is built entirely of old dry grass with a long domed entrance, they are now busy carrying in feathers so hope they will soon lay. Firefinches, Magpie Mannikins, and others are also building.

DOVES AND PIGEONS.—Diamond, Peaceful, Violet, Brush Bronze-wing, Talpacoti, and Plumed Ground, are all incubating clutches of eggs. Geoffrey's have young ones. Red Mountain Doves and Green Fruit Pigeons have not yet nested. The Fruit-pigeons will not eat fruit, but take freely of boiled rice, soaked maize and grey peas, also small dry seed and come on the ground to feed quite often. The cock is quite tame and may be handled without moving, but the hen is wilder. The Indian Green-wing Doves have, as yet, shown no signs of nesting.



Yellow-winged Sugar-bird and Zebra Finches.

SOUTH AMERICANS AND OTHERS.—Cuban Finches are building, as also are Virginian and Pope Cardinals. The Red-crested Cardinals commenced nest construction, but as they were always trying to fight the Popes through the netting dividing the two aviaries, I thought it wiser to remove them. Euler's and Pileated Finches are doing nothing so far. The Blue Jays are still building, and I hope eggs and young may follow in due course. The Song Sparrows have not commenced building yet, but one pair, the white-eyebrowed, go about together and the hen chases her mate about, but flies about with him, so perhaps there is a prospect of them nesting when the privet, laurel, etc., are in full leaf, and the grass well grown. The Jungle and Button Quail are always together, and the Jungle cock is rather fond of rushing after the Bronze-wing Doves and driving them from his particular corner, so I hope, perhaps, they may breed this year—last year they took no notice whatever of each other, and I never saw the cock chase anything before.

Psittaci.—There are plenty of young Budgerigars, also young Cockateels. Peach-faced and Black-cheeked Lovebirds are sitting.

I have penned the above jottings, after spending the week-end among the birds, watching their doings, so that if copy is still short the editor may be able to make extracts therefrom.

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The Birds of British Guiana.

By Chas. Dawson, S.J., M.A., (Oxon).

(Continued from Page 106).

Tyrant Birds.

These birds belong to the great Order of *Passeriformes* and are thus distantly related to the Colony Jay. They are only found in the New World. The name appears to have been first given to the King-bird of North America on account of its boldness in attacking hawks and even eagles and driving them off. It is hardly applicable to many of the colony species, though our Kiskadee certainly merits the title. In habits, some of these birds resemble the European shrikes or butcher-birds; others, the fly-catchers; and one at least (the Cotton Bird) the wagtail. The family comprises many different forms, but all are insectivorous, some varying their diet with fruit, and the larger forms with eggs, young birds, and small lizards. None are gaudily coloured; ; brown, red, grey, dull-yellow, and in the *Pyrocephalus rubineus* with bright scarlet. The Scissor-tailed Tyrant-Bird is remarkable for its long, forked, tail and the Royal Tyrant-Bird for its half-moon, crown-like, crest. The note of these birds is generally loud and harsh; there are no songsters among them.

The Kiskadee (sometimes written *Qu'est-ce-qu'il-dit* from a fancied resemblance of its loud note to these words) is, in this colony, facile princeps of his Order. He is the admonitor of birds generally, and is in evidence everywhere. He must not be mistaken for the Slender-billed Tyrant Bird which is the same in colour and markings, but is smaller, nor yet for the Broad-billed Tyrant-Bird which is larger and has a very broad bill; this bird, however, is seldom seen, being very shy and solitary. The Orange-crested Tyrant-Bird is also marked the same, but is smaller than the Slender-bill. All these birds have orange-coloured, silken feathers beneath the black feathers on the top of the head and all show them occasionally; but the latter named more than all, hence its name.

The Pigmy Tyrant-Bird, or Pipitorie as it is called from its persistent note, is like a tiny Kiskadee, but has no corona. The Fork-tail was once a common object in Georgetown; the Cotton Bird is still to be seen along the trenches, the Grey-headed, and the Rustic Tyrant-Birds are very common.

There are some eighty genera and about four hundred and sixty species.

Passerifomes—

Kiskadee Tyrant-Bird	*Pitangus sulphratus.*
Slender-billed Tyrant-Bird	,, *lictor.*
*Small ,, ,;	,, *parvus.*
Broad-billed ,, ,;	*Megarhyncus pitangua.*
Orange-crested ,, ,;	*Myiozetetes cayennensis.*
Yellow-breasted ,, ,;	,, *sulphureus*
Pale-yellow-vented Tyrant-Bird (?)	,, *luteiventris.*
Muff Tyrant-Bird	*Tyrannus rostratus.*
Grey-headed Tyrant-Bird	,, *melancholicus*
Scissor-tailed ,, ,;	*Muscivora tyrannus.*
Brown-tailed ,, ,;	*Myiodynastes audax.*
†Solitary ,, ,;	,, *solitarius.*
Scarlet-breasted ,, ,;	*Pyrocephalus rubineus.*
Rustic ,, ,,	*Elainea pagana*
†White-capped ,, ,;	,, *albiceps.*
†Olive brown ,, ,;	,, *olivina.*

White-headed Tyrant-Bird	*Arundinicola leucocephala.*
Small-brown ,, ,,	*Mionectes oleaginus.*
Black-and-White Tyrant-Bird (Cotton Bird)	*Fluvicola pica.*
Pigmy Tyrant-Bird	*Todirostrum cinereum.*
*†Ornate Tyrant-Bird.	*Todirostrum pictum.*
†Spotted Tyrant-Bird	*Todirostrum maculatum.*
*†White-browed Tyrant-Bird (Roraima)	*Mecocerculus leucophrys.*
†The Sea-shore Tyrant-Bird	*Ochthornis littoralis.*
†The Sprightly Tyrant-Bird.	*Copurus leuconotus.*
†The Moustached Tyrant-Bird	*Platyrhynchus mystaceus.*
†Red-tailed Tyrant-Bird	*Rhynchocyclus ruficauda.*
*†Yellow-vented Tyrant-Bird.	,, *flaviventirs.*
†Stripe-faced Tyrant-Bird.	*Euscarthmus zosterops.*
†Ruddy Tyrant-Bird (Roraima	,, *russatus.*
†Helmeted Tyrant-Bird.	*Colopteryx galeatus.*
*†Stripe-Capped Tyrant-Bird.	*Hapalocerus striaticeps.*
†Beautiful-breasted Tyrant-Bird	*Habrura pectoralis.*
†Darkheaded Tyrant Bird.	*Leptopogon amaurocephalus*
*†Black-fronted Tyrant-Bird	,, *nigrifrons.*
†Fly-eating Tyrant Bird	*Myiopagis gaimardi.*
†Ruddy-capped Tyrant Bird	,, *ruficeps.*
†Dusky Tyrant Bird	*Myiopatis semifusca.*
*†Harmless Tyrant Bird	*Ornithion inerme.*
†Fierce Tyrant Bird (?)	,, *acre.*
*†Superb Tyrant Bird	*Tyrannulus elatus.*
†Slender-footed Tyrant Bird	*Tyranniscus gracilipes.*
†Short-billed Tyrant Bird. (?)	*Empidagra brevirostris.*
†White-necked Tyrant Bird	*Legatus albicollis.*
King Tyrant Bird (or Royal)	*Onychorhynchus regia.*
†Bearded Tyrant Bird	*Myiobius barbatus.*
*†Ruby Tyrant Bird	,, *erythrurus.*
Roraima Tyrant-Bird (red streaked head)	,, *roraimae.*
†Freckled Tyrant Bird	,, *naevius.*
†Olive Tyrant Bird (?).	*Empidonax olivus*
†Flaming Tyrant Bird	*Horizopus ardesciacus.*
†The Swarthy Tyrant Bird	*Planchesia fusca.*
†The Fly King Tyrant Bird	*Myiarchus tyrannulus*
†The Bold Tyrant Bird (?).	,, *ferox.*
	,, *pelzelni.*
†The Grey Tyrant Bird.	,, *phaeonotus*
†The Striped Tyrant Bird.	*Empidonomus varius.*
*Swallow-fly Tyrant Bird.	*Empidochanes salvini.*
*Ash-coloured Tyrant Bird.	*Sayornis cineracea.*

(To be continued).

Ideas on Breeding and Origin of Blue Budgerigars.

By J. W. Marsden.

I am writing a few notes and ideas on breeding blue budgerigars, thinking they may, perhaps, interest some readers. This is only my fourth season of keeping these beautiful birds. Blue appears to have always been my favourite colour in live stock. When I kept Macaws, the Hyacinthian, was easily first favourite. In Parrakeets, I always liked the Bauer's; in old English, and modern game bantams the blues always came first. I believe I was the first to produce blue Japanese bantams When I kept waterfowl, the Hyacinthian Gallinule was always prominent in my aviaries; and in canines, the blue and white harlequin Great Dane had most attraction for me, and now I am keener than ever on Blue Budgerigars.

As I stated in a former article, I bred last year, after three seasons' preparation from a green hen (⅜ blue, ⅜ green, ¼ yellow) and succeeded in breeding, two very fine blues. Now it seems to me that what we should do is to get rid of the yellow in the common green. If one takes the yellow away from the yellow parts we get white, and taking the yellow from the green parts we get blue (because blue × yellow = green, therefore green — yellow = blue), so in using yellow to produce blues, I should only use the very palest and washed out ones I could possibly get.

As far as I know the origin of the blue is unknown, but I think the breeder may have bred an albino, and in trying to perpetuate the whites by inbreeding, by accident produced the blues. I may be wrong, but in any case, it seems to me the great thing is to eliminate the yellow. I cannot help thinking that generations ago the original colour of the Budgerigar was blue, and the yellow has been developed as a more protective colour against the heat of the sun. Mr. Milsum, and the Rev. J. M. Paterson, both agree that blues must be bred and kept in the shade. In the common greens the nest plumage is more or less blue, and we know that in all Nature the colour of the young indicates the original colour of the bird or beast, many generations ago. Then again, blue. and grey-blue appear to be the primary colours of all nature.

therefore it seems quite possible that if Budgerigars were originally blue, the yellow (a protective colour) came in and produced the greens, according to the rule of the survival of the fittest.

Editorial.

White-cheeked Finch-Lark, Etc.—Our member, Mr. Shore Baily has a young bird of this species on the wing, also a young Green Fruit-Pigeon has left the nest. A detailed account will appear in a later issue. We heartily congratulate our member on these successes.

Nesting Notes.—Our member, Mr. H. Bright, informs us that Diamond Finches, and Long-tailed Grassfinches have noisy broods of young in the nest. Pope Cardinals have two fully fledged young ones. Cuban Finches and Malabar Starlings also, apparently have young in the nest, but they are very secretive and their movements very difficult to follow. Mr. Bright remarks that many of the first nests were not serious attempts, and that many species with him were checked during the wet weather that followed the first warm spell, but that now most of them have fresh nests constructed, some already have clutches of eggs.

In Mr. W. T. Page's aviary, not much is doing at present, but a pair of Grey-winged Ouzels have two or three young in the nest, which they are bringing up on such live food as the aviary provides. Unfortunately there are very few pairs so that there cannot be many results this season. Gouldian Finches are showing signs of going to nest, and Zebra Finches are nesting. Bank Mynahs and Indian Green-wing Doves as yet show no signs of going to nest. A pair of All Green Conures have occupied a nest barrel for two months; one or other of the pair being always in the barrel, but no result up to the present. A cock Purple Sunbird has been a pleasing feature of the series; he has been most assiduous in his attentions to the flowering shrubs—cup or bell-shaped flowers he is most attentive to and extracts the honey but does not destroy the flowers—other types of flowers he apparently ignores—from the pendant flowers of a Forsythia he took the nectar hovering, but from the erect flowering Wiegelia he leisurely sipped the nectar while perched on the stem. A more entrancing picture than this feathered jewel disporting himself so naturally, his airy gracefulness, and lightning darts after a passing midge completes a picture too exquisite for words.

OBITUARY.—Our recently elected member, O. Murray-Dixon, the artist of the frontispiece of our last issue, was killed in action in France, a few days before the appearance of the issue. We tender sincere condolences to his sorrowing parents and greatly regret that the first specimen of his skilful brush in our pages, drawn amid the sinister surroundings of the trenches, must be the last, unless his parents have other drawings they would lend for reproduction.

With greatest regret we have to announce the tragic death of Lady Webster. She was bathing on the evening of the 15th inst., in the lake at Battle Abbey, Sussex, with her youngest daughter, who got into difficulties. Lady Webster went to her assistance, but though a good swimmer she had a weak heart and sank, and her body was not recovered till midnight. Her daughter was saved by the governess. We tender sincere condolence to Sir A. Webster and family in their tragic bereavement.

ERRATUM: Page 88, line 23, " chilling confusion " should read *chilling expression.*

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Correspondence.

AN AUSTRALIAN AVIARY.

Sir,—One incident may interest you: I have two Blue Mountain Lorikeets, which are in one aviary, along with weavers, Pekin nightingales, blood finches, love parrots, etc., and these Blue Mountains have lived with me for over seven years. No doubt they eat some seed (canary, panicum, and millet), but they get every day bread soaked in boiling milk. It must be boiled fresh milk in this climate, otherwise it soon turns sour. All the finches seem to like the bread and milk. In this aviary I also place a small lot of cracked corn (maize), and a little rice, more especially for the Parsons.

O. BARTELS.

Mayne, Queensland

AVIARY NOTES.

Sir,—In my aviary a hen Grey Singingfinch has paired with a Goldfinch and she is now sitting. Has this cross been bred before?* I don't much care for hybrids and it seems to be my fate to rear them.

The good old Nonpareil hen, which is paired with an Indigo Bunting, is nesting for the third season in succession. I still have the first two young ones she bred.‡ One which lives in my sitting room is a charmingly tame bird and a great beauty. These hybrids differ from their Indigo father in having no eclipse plumage. Nevertheless they have two complete moults in the year.

Brush Bronze-wing Doves, the hen of which was kindly lent me by one of our members, have already reared one young one and have another in the nest.

The Gouldian Finches will, I fear, be late in nesting as they are only now commencing to moult.

The old hen which has done so well with me must be getting on in years. I bought her four years ago and she was then probably at least two years old. In the last three summers she has reared thirty nine young ones.

B. C. THOMASSET.

Ashmansworth, 9-5-'17.

*This cross has not been previously bred.—Ed

‡We should be obliged if Mr. Thomasset would supply a description of the plumage of these hybrids now they are fully adult.—Ed.

KEEPING MAGPIE IN CAGE, ETC.

Sir,—Some of our members have, like myself, to keep their pets in cages and possibly the following may prove of interest to such.

My Magpie (hen), which I have had for several years, has been kept in a cage, which cannot be called a very large one, but which, nevertheless, supplies space for moderate movement without damage to her tail. There is only one perch in the cage as two parallel ones left too little space for her caudal appendage. She laid several eggs last year and I regret so far having been unable to make arrangements to accommodate her with a mate. Up to the present she has laid six eggs this year and sits about on the floor of the cage a good deal, but by no means covering the eggs, for these past few days. She keeps in beautiful plumage and condition, is very gentle and intelligent.

My Grey Waxbill still flourishes and is now on its fourth year of cage life.

I am happily placed here as regards feathered life—one sees the Heron, Snipe, Owls, and many feathered Warblers; the voices of the green Woodpecker, Wryneck and Cuckoo are common sounds. At night the melody of the Nightingale charms the ear, also the passing of wild geese and others of nocturnal habits keeps one's interest alive.

The Tree Sparrow seems absent hereabouts.

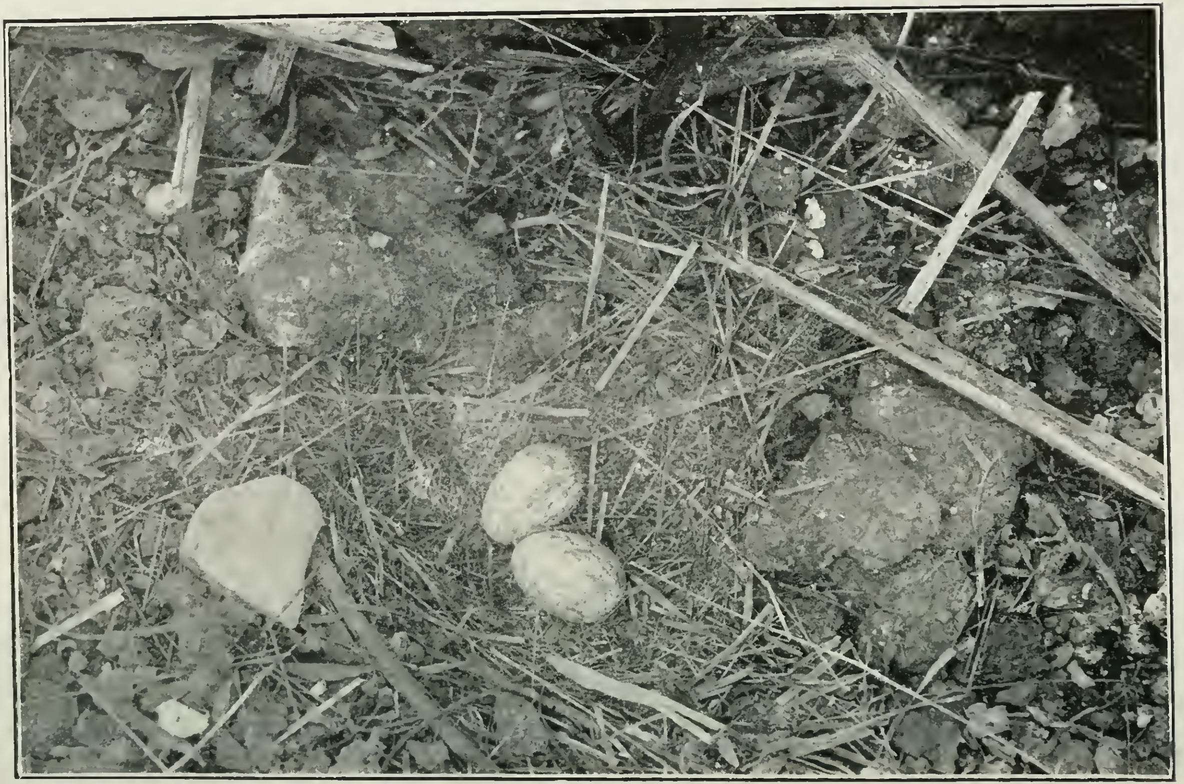
New Milton, June 1st, 1917. J. WEIR.

British Bird Calendar.

April 25.—Saw Fieldfares.
May 2.— ,, Winchats.
,, 7.— ,, Blackcap and Nightjar.
,, 8.— ,, Turtle Dove and Sedge Warbler.
,, 18.— ,, Red backed Shrike.
,, 19.— ,, Young Grey Wagtails about a week old.
,, 22.— ,, A Shrike's nest containing four eggs.

Have met with all the migrants now, but the above interested me most

J.S.R., Caterham, Surrey, May 23, 1917.



Nest and Eggs of *P. leucotis*.

Photo W. Shore Baily.

All rights reserved.] [July, 1917.

BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Nesting of the White-cheeked Finch-Lark.

By W. Shore Baily.

Pyrrhulauda leucotis is a pretty, and fairly freely imported African bird, but, as far as I know, they have not previously reared young in this country. My pair, although they had nested with their former owner, Dr. M. Amsler, made no attempt to do so in my aviaries last year; this year they have behaved better.

Early in May I noticed the cock chasing the hen, a sure sign that they were thinking of housekeeping, so on Sunday afternoon, May 6th, I planted a seat near the entrance to their aviary and settled myself comfortably to watch them with a view to locating the nest. Both birds seemed very uneasy and several times came flying in my direction. At one time the hen had her beak full of dry grass, but after watching them for more than an hour I quite failed to obtain any idea of the whereabouts of the nest. The aviary is a large one, about 150′ × 75′, so I decided to take my stand at the other end; no sooner had I done so than the cock bird alighted where I had previously been sitting, and as he did not re-appear I concluded he must have run on to the nest. After a careful stalk I flushed him, but it still took me some time to find the nest.

When I at last saw it, I congratulated myself that I had not accidentally put my foot upon it. It wason the bare ground at the foot of a willow stump, and not three feet from where I had been sitting for over an hour. A slight cup-shaped depression had been lined with dried grass and this contained two eggs, very similar in colour to those of the English Skylark, but of a much smaller size, I cannot say whether the eggs had been incubated or not when found on May 6th, but ten days later one egg hatched out, the other having disappeared.

The newly hatched chick was dark chocolate in colour. It grew very fast and at three days old its body and wings were outlined in a buff-coloured fluff. When a week old it began to feather, and on the twelfth day it made its exit from the nest, being then fully feathered, except that its tail and flight feathers were not fully grown. In colour it was a dark chocolate, very evenly barred with a lighter brown. For two or three days I saw it no more, but on June 1st I caught sight of it in the potato patch—I am growing potatoes in some of my aviaries—it ran very swiftly and took cover under a potato leaf, just like a young partridge.

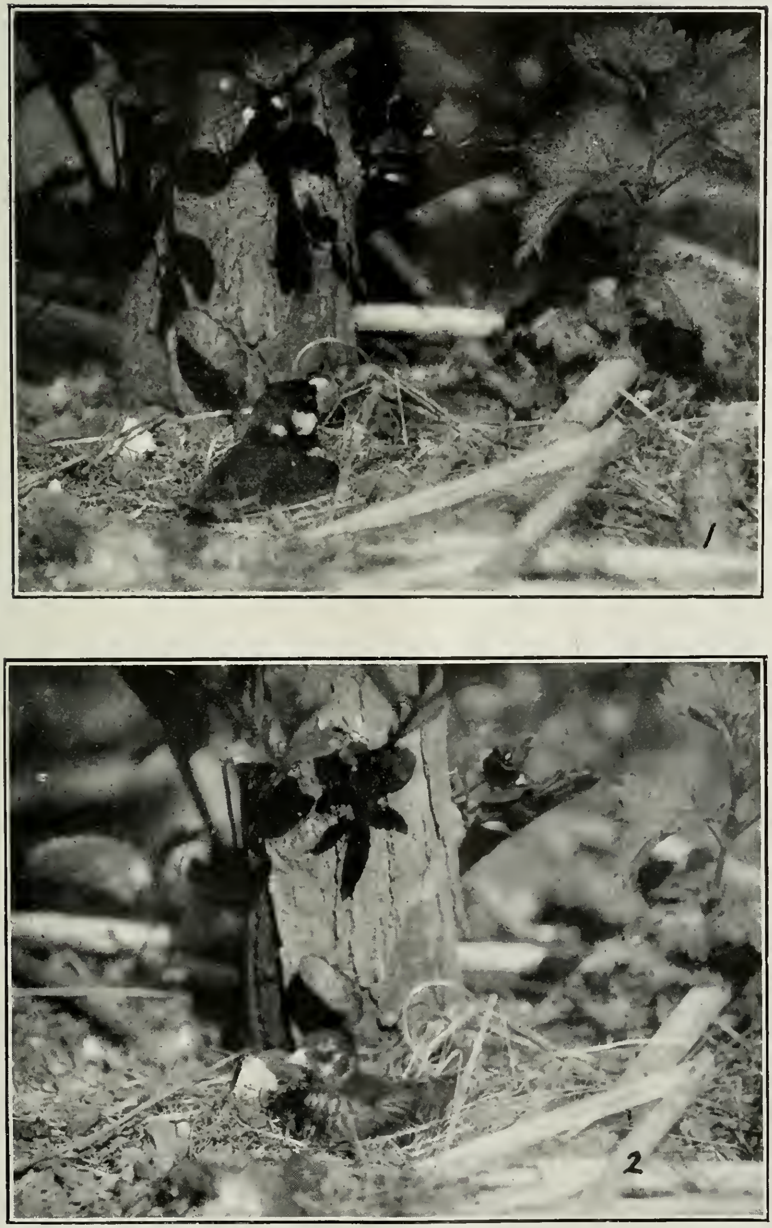
Both parents took part in the duties of incubation; the cock bird by day and the hen by night. They also divided the duties for catering for their little one, which was fed, so far as I could see, entirely on live-food, grubs and caterpillars being apparently most favoured; mealworms when provided were also much appreciated.

When the baby Lark was about a week old it had a narrow escape from sudden death, as a grass snake, about four feet long found its way into the aviary. The reptile took a nest full of eggs belonging to my redwings, and if I had not seen it when I did, there would undoubtedly have been other equally vexatious losses.

The colour of the adult birds, in both sexes, is attractive and pleasing, and, as they are not shy, they are mostly on view, which is not always the case with many species of larks.

Like my Indian Lark (*Alauda alauda*) *P. leucotis* frequently selects the top of a dead tree from which to pour forth his song, but I have never heard it singing while on the wing, as it is said to do in its native haunts.

There appear to be several other species of finch-larks, both in Africa and India, and from an aviculturists' point of view, they would seem to be well worth importing.



Photos W. Shore Baily.

Cock (1) Hen (2) of *P. leucotis* incubating.

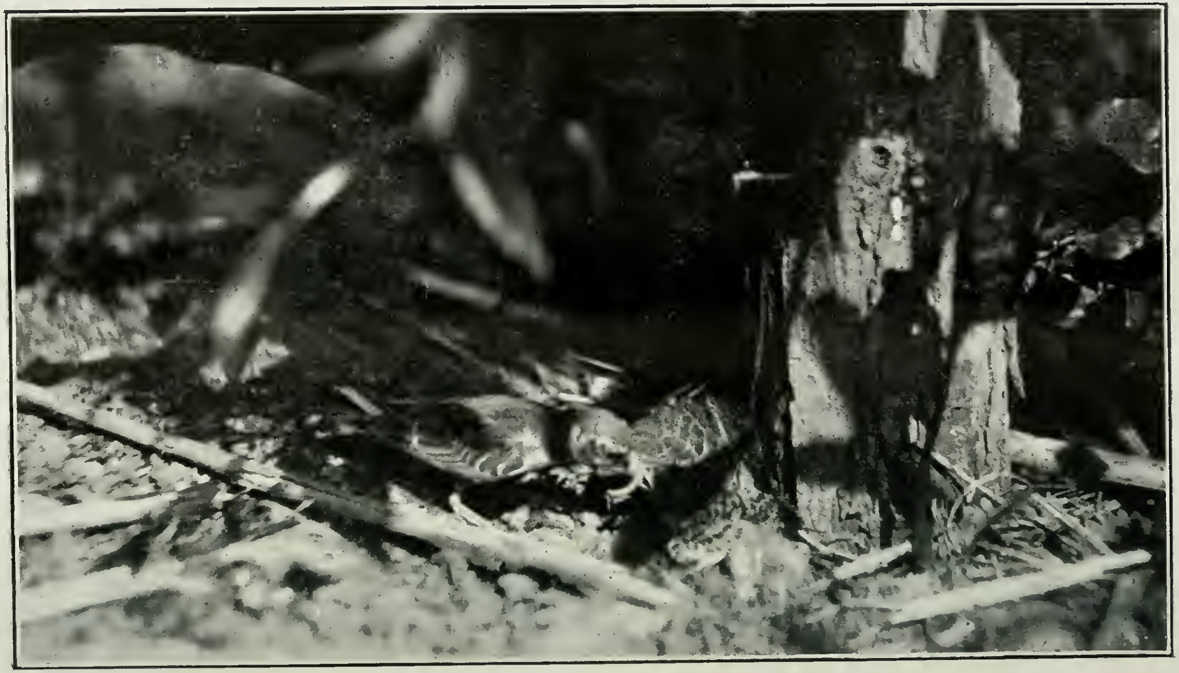


Photo W. Shore Baily.

Hen *P. leucotis* Feeding Young.

Alas! Since writing the above notes I have to record the death of my little larkling.* He fell a victim to an avian Hun as have several other birds this season. It is strange what delight some birds take in *strafing* any new-comer in their aviary; whether introduced or born there seems to make no difference. Unfortunately in a large aviary nothing can be done to prevent it, as it is impossible to catch up any individual bird, and one hesitates about using a shot gun, where many valuable birds are about.

The Finch-Larks, at the time of writing (June 20th) are I believe incubating another clutch of eggs, but I have not yet located the nest.

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The Private Importation of Indian Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S. Etc.

(Continued from page 102).

Fruitsuckers: Of these, three species were imported alive, namely the Gold-fronted, and Hardwick's, also the Black-crested Yellow Bulbul, most of whom did well, though there were several Hardwick's which arrived in very bad condition. These, in spite of every care, succumbed though lingering on for some weeks.

Gold-Fronted Green Fruitsucker: (*Chloropsis aurifrons*): This species is gloriously beautiful; it is also of a tame and confiding nature and makes a delightful pet. It is a well known species and has been illustrated in colours in a back number of "Bird Notes." Once established, it is hardy, and can be successfully wintered out of doors during any ordinary winter.

Eight of this species arrived alive with different consignments, and of these six have found homes in the aviaries of members.

Description: Forehead and fore-crown rich orange-yellow; lores, eye region, ear-coverts and lower throat black; chin, cheeks, moustachial streaks, and upper throat rich purplish blue; lesser wing-coverts and bend of wing intense verdigris-blue; remainder of plumage brilliant green, tinged in parts with old gold. Beak black; feet plumbeous.

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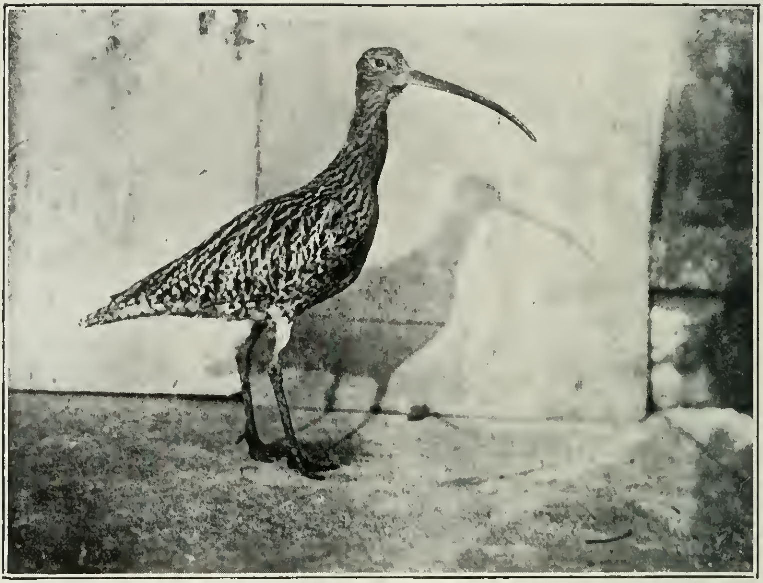
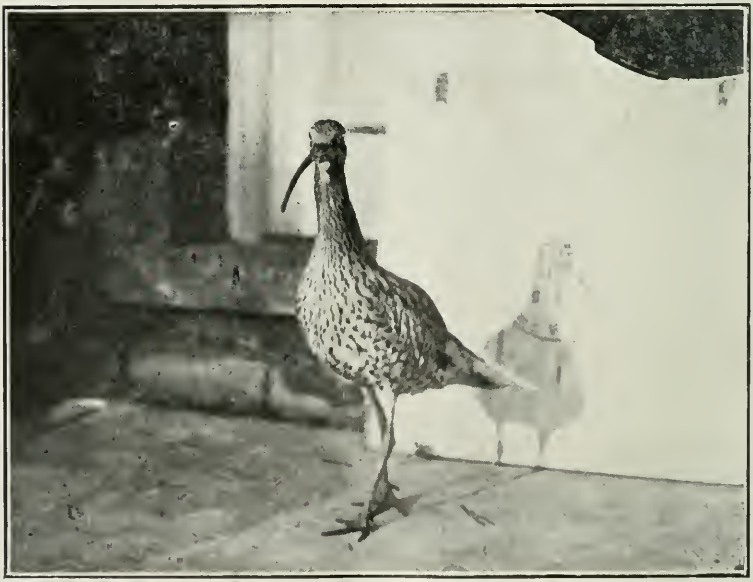
*The young bird was fully independent of its parents before the tragedy.

Range and Habitat.: Sub-Himalayan tracts from Garwhal to Dibrugarh in Assam, and Eastern Bengal. The birds do not vary in size much according to locality, but those from Kumaun are larger than those from the other parts of the extended range of this species. It extends into Cambodia.

Captivity Notes: My lovely male presented to me by the late Lt.-Col. Perreau early in 1908, when fully adult, died in the early part of this year, showing signs of senile decay; he was evidently one of the largest and most brilliantly coloured specimens I have seen, and I have seen many. He was uncommonly tame, came to hand at once and did not object to being handled—his heart pulsating not one whit more when he was gripped in the hand, than when perched on one's finger—tossed into the air he returned to hand or shoulder at once, and this in a large flight 15′ high, thick with growing trees and bushes. He dwelt there amicably with other species—waxbills, weavers, finches, tanagers, ouzels, and thrushes—spending several severe winters out of doors. In 1912 I succeeded in getting a mate for him and never will I forget the display he made when she was turned into his flight—the then Major Perreau was present and said he had never seen anything to equal it—wall-creeper-like, he clung to stem and wall with wings outspread—the intense verdigris-blue of the bend of the wing now a huge patch—making a feast of beauty beyond the power of words to describe; now he has " gone west " and alas! his donor also. Strange fatality, I lost the hen also this year—her end was tragic, she fell a victim to a marauding rat which obtained entrance into the aviary. Numerous and gorgeous as are the feathered aliens which reach our shores, none are more attractive or beautiful than the Gold-fronted Green Fruitsucker. Added to these qualities must be that he is a fine songster and possesses no mean powers of mimicry.

HARDWICK'S GREEN FRUITSUCKER *(C. hardwickii)*: An even more beautiful species than the preceding species in the eyes of some aviculturists, but not in the writer's opinion, nor yet is it as robust, hardy or confiding as *aurifrons*. After all we each have our opinions and are differently pleased; with me at any rate the Gold-front stands first.





Photos F. Dawson Smith.

The Curlew.

Good luck did not attend the living arrivals of this species which came to hand in fair feather, but bad condition, and though receiving careful nursing and lingering for some weeks, all but one ultimately succumbed—this solitary survivor, a hen, is thriving in the bird-room of one of our members.

This species also has a fine song and a very fine appearance, but is not, in the writer's opinion, so hardy as *aurifrons*, but he enriches any collection. Our member Mr. Scott-Freeland has kept both this species and the Gold-front in the same aviary (at Tonbridge) all the year round.

Description. Male.—Above green, head and neck tinged with yellowish, and brilliant smalt-blue moustachial streaks; wings and tail purple-violet; throat and fore-neck black, passing into dark glossy purple on the breast; abdomen rich cadmium-yellow; beak black; feet plumbeous.

The female is paler and lacking the black neck and throat, her moustachial streaks are paler, and the under-parts much suffused with green.

Habits.—It ranges the Himalayas and their bases, from Mussore to Dibrugarh in Assam; Khashi Hills; Manipur; Tocugrigoo Hills; Karence, Maleyeil Mountain in Tenasserim; and Perak Ni'tus in the Malay Peninsula.

The nest is said to be shallow and cup-shaped, constructed of vegetable fibres, fine roots and stems of weeds. Eggs, usually two, of a whitish ground colour marked with black or dark brown.

(To be Continued).

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Some Notes on the Curlew.

By Lieut. Frank Dawson-Smith.

Practical aviculture is rather a "wash-out" with me just now, but my interest never flags and I hope some day, when the war is a thing of the past, to carry on my study of bird-life again. Just at present I am in a "rest billet" behind the firing line, after a most strenuous and exciting period of adventure—

"alarums and excursions" in the thickest of the fray. I am writing these notes in a beautiful and peaceful spot, where there is only the sound of birds—the exquisite song of a hidden warbler right overhead, where I am sitting at the top of a hill, looking down on a picture of perfect and serene beauty. *What* a contrast to what I have left! And my thoughts go wandering back to other scenes, when I went exploring in the wilds for the study of bird life. And that brings me to a vivid remembrance of the Highlands. Few places excel in beauty the lochs of the North West Highlands of Scotland. These lochs are of two kinds; salt water and fresh water, and both are strikingly beautiful. A medley of colour in summer, and impressive and wild in their winter grandeur. Here the Curlew finds a congenial home. Along the sides of the sea-loch fringed with forests, and with great rugged mountains surveying it the Curlew seeks his food, giving frequent utterance to his wild, wailing cry, which somehow, appears to blend with the wild beauty around. Most people know the Curlew, as it is quite a common bird in most coastal districts, and the sight of the long curved-bill bird is as familiar as its call. But one can best appreciate its wild desolate cry on a lonely coast. It is rather a difficult matter to get near a Curlew, as they are very shy, as anyone who has attempted to stalk them will understand. A pair of glasses are necessary to observe and study them properly. In the winter Curlews may be seen walking sedately along the shore, probing in the sand and mud with their long bills in search of food, which consists of worms, mollusca, small crabs and tiny insects which they can catch. A close study is rarely possible; at least that is my experience. I tried it several times, but never really succeeded, as the bird instinctively rose and then flew off with loud cries of alarm and warning. The cry of a Curlew is unforgettable when once heard. I think it an extremely attractive cry!

This bird is a resident species and inhabits the coast for the greater part of the year. It is not popular with the wildfowler, as it acts as a sentinel and alarms his quarry—the ducks and geese, and consequently is often the cause of a blank stalk. My temper has often been sorely tried, when I have been after wild-fowl, and the sentinel Curlew has brought to naught all my care and trouble, just when it seemed bound to succeed! his alarm note upsetting all my calculations and arrangements. The bird does not make very good eating, although it is relished by some people,—*chacun à son goût*. It is, perhaps, as well for the Curlew that it does *not* make a dainty dish or it might conceivably be a rarer bird than it is! In the spring the Curlew's " fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love," and he then forsakes his winter quarters on the shore for more suitable spots where he may bring up his family. Hence in spring and summer one finds many Curlews on the Scottish moors, wheeling in the air and uttering their plaintive cries. Among the heather the female deposits her four eggs, well hidden and difficult to find as the eggs so resemble the heather and ground in colouring. The eggs are pointed at one end, the shape of the common lapwings, and are olive in colour with brown markings. The parent birds evince great concern when a human approaches the vicinity of the nest, flying round in circles with loud cries of distress. If the eggs are hard to discover, the young birds are equally so, or even more difficult to see. They can run as soon as they are hatched, and, when danger approaches, do so in all directions, and then crouch down in the heather or grass with which they blend and harmonize so completely as to baffle the seeking eye. The baby Curlew does not possess the long curved bill of the adult bird and is altogether a queer-looking little chap.

These waders are quite easily kept in captivity. I have owned several in pre-war days. Despite of their shy nature in the wild state, they soon became very tame. They always kept themselves in a spotlessly clean condition, and made a most attractive addition to the large waders aviary where I kept them. Their food consisted of barley meal, puppy meal, bread, boiled rice, and strips of raw meat added to the mixture. And, very important, as many worms as could be obtained I found that plenty of worms were not only regarded appreciatively but also beneficial. The Curlew in the photographs sent with this, was a very tame specimen, and he was allowed a considerable amount of freedom. He did not approve, however, of being " snapped," and it was only after a good deal of patience and perseverance that I finally made him understand that my camera was *not* an instrument of torture; in the end I managed to secure the results which go with this article. I think most people will agree with me that the Curlew's cry is a most pleasing one, whether heard on the coast or the moorlands. I trust that these notes of the bird may be of some interest to the readers of "Bird Notes."

Before concluding I should like to make a few remarks about the Whimbrel, a bird very similar to the Curlew, but of smaller size. Whimbrels are birds of passage, appearing on our coasts in spring and autumn. A few of them remain all through the summer, but these are birds in immature plumage. They are not so shy as the Curlews and are therefore easier to study. In September they may be seen associating with Redshanks and other small waders, and are also often found with Curlews. In flight and food they resemble their larger relative, and their nest is also similar—a shallow hole in the ground, but the eggs are, naturally, smaller. A few pairs breed in the Orkney and Shetlands, but the chief places are Iceland, the Faroe Islands, and other places in the Arctic. In captivity the habits and food of the Whimbrel are the same as the Curlews, and it is quite as attractive, the smaller size of the former being, practically, the only difference here! That is about all I can write now. I am hoping to get off another article before returning to the front line again, and I know our esteemed editor is sometimes hard up for copy in these troublous times, so I want to do my bit to ease him as far as I can. Good-bye and good luck to him and my fellow members of the F.B.C.

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A Cruise on the S.Y. "Vectis."

By W. Shore Baily.

When this dreadful war is over and conditions are once more something like normal, many of us who have been making munitions, or have been engaged on other work of national importance frequently under very difficult conditions, will admit that we are entitled to take a reasonable holiday. To these I would say try a trip through Norwegian Fjords, and you are not likely to repent it. If you are an ornithologist, you will constantly be kept in sight of birds of many kinds. If a botanist, many rare plants are sure to be met with. Whilst if neither of these hobbies interest you, the constant changes of place and scenery cannot fail to please. The following account of a trip taken in July, 1904, will give some idea of what one may expect to see. The S.Y. Vectis, the vessel on which my pal and self decided to book passages was a P. & O. liner of 6,000 tons, and this was her first trip as a pleasure yacht. The cruise was to take 28 days and was to include a visit to Spitzbergen and the Polar ice-pack. It was with considerable excitement that we left London in a special train for Tilbury Dock, on the morning of the 6th July. Some of our fellow passengers looked decidedly weird in their travelling costumes, and speculations as to what they would be like to live with for a month were mingled with doubts as to whether our baggage would or would not turn up on the yacht. When we reached Tilbury we were all taken to the *Vectis* in a tender and after the usual flurry and disorder we were at last installed in our cabins. My pal and I had selected cabins amidship, the most desirable position on the vessel. It was his first experience of travel and he was rather inclined to grumble at the size of his cabin. I had to point out to him that he could not expect on board ship to find bedrooms as large as those hewas used to at home As a matter of fact, when we got used to them, we found them amply big enough and most conveniently fitted up. Being on deck, we were able to sleep with our doors open at night, and so got plenty of fresh air, which is not always to be obtained in the cabins on the lower deck. Early in the afternoon, we got under way, and were followed down the river by a large flock of Lesser Black-headed Gulls, so well known to Londoners. At the mouth of the river most of them left us, to return up-stream. Their place was taken by a few Herring Gulls, which followed us nearly all the way to Norway. At dinner in the evening we met our table companions for the voyage, and we thought ourselves lucky in being billeted with such charming people. The dining room on the *Vectis* is alarge well-appointed saloon, and it has the great advantage of being roomy enough to seat all the passengers at the same time, thus doing away with the necessity of serving the meals in relays, always a source of strife amongst the passengers on vessels with less dining-room accommodation.

After a capital dinner, and a short stroll on deck, we adjourned to the smoke-room, in the opinion of the male passengers the best appointed room in the ship. Here drinks and smokes of all kinds could be obtained, and a couple of pleasant hours were spent before turning in. *Reveillé* sounded at 6-30 next morning, and we awoke to find that we were sailing or a summer sea, with little or no motion on the vessel. After a salt water bath and a walk around the decks we were able to do justice to a most excellent breakfast. The catering on the *Vectis* was, we found, one of the features of the cruise. The forenoon we spent in examining the yacht, making the acquaintance of our fellow passengers, and in comparing our field-glasses. Most of the men carried high power Zeiss or Ross glasses, but knowing how difficult it is to keep these steadily on an object when in a moving boat, the writer had provided himself with a pair of low-powered glasses, with large objectives. With these he found that he could easily pick up birds on the wing, when with the high-powered glass it was very difficult to do so. Very few birds were seen this day but I was able to identify a few Gannets in immature plumage. After lunch the vessel was stopped for a life-saving practice. A dummy was thrown overboard, and a lifeboat was lowered to effect a rescue. Everything was done in record time, and we were all very much interested. I was very much surprised at noting the extreme shallowness of the water, as when the screw was restarted the sand was very much churned up, and we left a sand-coloured wake behind us as far as the eye could see. We had expected to find a lot of fishing boats on the Dogger Bank but the only vessel we saw was a Norwegian barque, which came close enough to be photographed. We probably passed the fishing fleet in the night. The next day we awoke to find a fresh breeze blowing and on tumbling out of our berths found that we had by no means as yet acquired our sea legs. The saloon at breakfast time was not very full; what it was like at lunch time I do not know, as by that time I had lost all interest in food-stuffs myself, and I could not be persuaded by a kind-hearted steward to leave my chair on deck before bed-time. After a fair night's rest I essayed the dining-room for breakfast, but am bound to admit that it was not a success.

Judging from the number of empty seats, mine was not the only appetite that had gone astray. However, on going on deck the distant view of the Norwegian coast line put a little courage into our hearts, as we knew that we should soon be in smooth water. Birds now began to be more numerous and Guillemots, Razor-bills, Puffins, and Cormorants, were to be seen on both sides of the yacht. Many of the passengers had never seen these birds before and were much interested. As we approached the land we were again met by Black-headed Gulls, and they accompanied us to Bergen. As we drew in behind the islands, the water became quite smooth and our ship once more assumed an even keel, a great relief to those of us who had been suffering from *mal-de-mar*. As we wound our way in between the numerous islands, we every now and then passed so close, that we could have literally thrown a biscuit on shore. The sea-fowl were extraordinarily tame, and one Razor-bill, that perched upon one of our boat davits, enjoyed quite a cruise with us. It was much admired by the passengers most of whom, now we were in smooth water, had issued from their cabins. Some of them thought it was a duck, whilst others judging perhaps from the size of its bill put it down to be a Hawk or bird of prey. It is astonishing what ignorance of bird life there is amongst our town dwellers. For three or four hours we meandered slowly through the fjords, until on rounding a point Bergen, our first port of call lay before us. And very pretty it looked in the sunlight. After anchoring the steam launch was lowered, and we were very soon taken on shore. We found Bergen to be a charming old town. Quite the most interesting thing we saw in Norway was the fish market here. This consisted of a long series of wooden troughs, through which a stream of salt water flowed. In these the fish were kept alive. When the Norwegian housewife goes shopping, she selects her fish as it is swimming around in the trough. There were many different kinds, amongst which I noticed cod, pollack, and whiting. One variety, which I understand is taken in the fjords at a great depth, had their eyeballs protruding, and looked rather horrid. They were swimming about with the others, and apparently were not suffering in any way, although I take it that they must have been quite blind. Keeping fish under these conditions ensures their arrival to the consumer in a perfectly fresh condition, and does away with the necessity of ice; but I imagine that the Herring Gulls that were perched upon the near-by houses occasionally get a free meal. After having thoroughly explored the town, which, by the way, contains some very fine jewellers' and furriers' shops, we took a drive into the country and inspected an old wooden church of a typical Norwegian style of architecture. My recollection of the interior is that it contained a very ancient and fish-like smell, probably due to the pickle used in preserving the wood. I should not like to have to sit out a long sermon in it. I noticed several of our English singing birds here, including the Willow Wren and Chiff-Chaff, and of course our Blackbird, Thrush, and Robin were also in evidence. The most conspicuous bird was the Hooded Crow, which we found very common throughout southern Norway. On returning on board to tea, we were surprised to see that the Kaiser's yacht, the *Hohenzollern*, had come in and anchored close to the *Vectis*. After tea we hired a boat and rowed around it. It looked nearly as large as the Vectis. A large cruiser and several torpedo boats were in attendance. The next morning the writer his pal and another friend, through slackness in getting ready, were left behind, when the launch took the rest of the passengers on shore. Whilst we were kicking our heels on deck, we noticed a commotion on the *Hohenzollern* and shortly afterwards a boat left the vessel for the *Vectis*. As we were speculating as to who were its occupants, our German courier told us that it was the Kaiser Wilhelm. This was quite enough for us, as none of us had ever seen a real live Kaiser, so we promptly stampeded for the gangway, and arrived just in time to salute him as he came on board. It may have been due to the odour of sanctity in which regal persons are supposed to be wrapped, or it may have been the gracious manner in which he returned our salutes, but I am bound to say that the impression he left upon our minds at the time was an entirely favourable one. When shortly afterwards we met our fellow passengers on shore, most of them were very disappointed at having missed seeing his Imperial Majesty. The British middle-class person dearly loves a lord, and simply worships anything in the shape of a king or kaiser. We three slackers were in great demand for a time amongst the ladies, who wanted a detailed description of the Kaiser's appearance and manner. Little did any of us think, at that time, what a cold-blooded murderer he would in a few years prove to be. His visit to the *Vectis* must have been quite an unusual event, and I believe that he made quite a thorough inspection of all parts of the vessel. In the afternoon we divided forces, about half of us taking an overland trip to Gudvangen, the others going through the fjords in the Vectis. These overland excursions were arranged by "Cook" and were extremely well done. Our courier was one of their best men. A year or so previously he had engineered and conducted the Kaiser's celebrated trip to Palestine and the East. We left Bergen by rail and after several hours' trvelling through mountainous and well wooded country, we left the train at a little place whose name I now forget. We were accommodated at a large wooden hostel, on the borders of the lake. It reminded me in a way of some of the wooden hostels I had stopped at in various parts of Western America. After our luxurious fare on the *Vectis*, some of us were inclined to grumble at the catering, and they were still more astonished at the scanty way in which their bedrooms were furnished. Most of us, however, thoroughly enjoyed the novelty of the surroundings, and as for the fare, hunger is after all the best sauce, and as the keen mountain air had given us useful appetites, the hotel authorities hadn't much reason to complain of our eating powers. I was aroused very early in the morning by the chattering of magpies, and on looking out saw two perched on a neighbouring window-sill, and several more foraging in the hotel courtyard. It was a lovely morning, and although it was still two or three hours off breakfast time, I decided to turn out. A walk along the shore of the lake proved most interesting. The water in places alongside the path was quite deep, and many trout were to be seen, some of large size. Excellent fishing is to be had here, principally by trolling from boats. In one marshy spot I sprung a couple of snipe, and from their slow and steady flight I judged them to be young birds, and I have no doubt they were bred close by. Far out on the lake my attention was attracted by a pair of divers. The sun was behind them and I couldn't see them very closely, but I think they were Grebes, possibly the Slavonian. This lake was singularly free from any rushy growth, the water around its shores being too deep, consequently I saw none of the common inland water-fowl such as coots and moorhens. Ducks were also conspicuous by their absence. Hooded Crows and Magpies were numerous. After breakfast our party set out for Stalheim in stoljaerrés, our first experience of the national vehicle. Each stoljaerré takes two passengers. The driver sits behind. They are quite comfortable, and of course by this arrangement one's view is quite unimpeded. The Norwegian ponies used in these carts are splendid little creatures. As there were about fifty of us in our party we made quite a cavalcade. Our way led up a valley, which in parts was fairly thickly wooded, principally with silver birch. It looked a likely country for Woodcock. Houses were few and far between. At one place we passed a mill of sorts, at the junction of two mountain torrents. I couldn't help thinking what an enormous amount of power might be developed upon these rivers. Later on we passed a long narrow lake. Here there was a patch or two of bullrushes, and the young of ducks and coots could be seen swimming in their vicinity. We were too far off to be able to identify the species.

(To be Continued).

The Birds of British Guiana.

By Chas. Dawson, S.J., M.A., (Oxon).

This article is reprinted from the "Journal of the Board of Agriculture of Brit. Guiana," with our apologies and thanks to the Editor, Author and Proprietors.—Editor "Bird Notes."

(Continued from page 128).

Barbets and Puff-Birds.—These birds derive their name from the barbs or bristles with which their mouths are beset, though they are by no means the only birds thus armed. The Barbets of the colony may be compared with the Kiskadee in size and form, and also as regards their powerful beak; but they belong to a different order, namely the *Coraciiformes*. There are two different families: the *Bucconinae or* " Puff

Birds," which are nearly related to the Jacamars, and the *Capitonidae* or "Big-heads," related to the Toucans. The former belong entirely to the New World, the latter are also found in Africa, India, and the East.

The feet of all these birds are zygodactyl, that is to say, there are two toes before and two behind. Barbets feed on fruit and berries with occasional insects. They build their nests in holes of fruit trees which they themselves, if necessary, excavate in the decaying wood. They lay white, shining eggs. Their note is generally long, loud, and ringing. A species in India is called "Copper-Smith" on account of the resemblance of its interminably repeated note to the sound of a hammer striking metal. The plumage is often brilliant with contrasts of scarlet, purple, yellow, or blue, bright green often prevailing. They are shy, arboreal birds, seldom appearing in the open. There are twenty-eight genera and about two hundred and eighty species, of which forty-five *Capitonidae* and sixteen *Bucconinae* belong to America.

BARBETS—(Colonial).

Bucconinae—	
Collared Barbet or Puff-Bird	*Buco collaris.*
*Long-billed Barbet or Puff-Bird	,, *macrorhynchus.*
*Dyson's Barbet	,, *dysoni.*
Large-billed Barbet.	,, *hyperrhynchus.*
*Ord's ,,	,, *ordi.*
Pied ,,	,, *tectus.*
Spotted ,,	*tamatia.*
White-breasted (soft-feathered)	*Malacoptila fusca*
Red-billed Barbet (Solitary)	*Monasa nigro*
White-rumped Barbet (Swallow-winged)	*Chelidoptera tenebrosa.*
Capitoninæ—	
Red throated Barbet	*Capito niger.*
*Golden Barbet or Puff-Bird	,, *auratus.*

KING-FISHERS.—These birds comprise a well-marked family of which the English Kingfisher may be taken as the type. They are remarkable for their large heads, spear-like beaks, and, as a rule for the gorgeous, and often metallic-like lustre of their plumage. They are divided into two sub-families, the *Alcedininæ* and *Halcyoninæ*, the latter family called the Wood-Kingfishers, being found as described, and feeding upon insects, reptiles, worms, etc., and only occasionally on fish. The former are expert fishers and have thus given the name to the whole tribe. Sitting solitary and motionless for a long time by the side of a pool or trench they may be seen suddenly to dart like an arrow into the water and seldom do they fail to bring up a struggling victim. The feet are exceedingly small for the size of the bird and are zygodactylous; the short scarlet tongue is shaped like an arrow-head. They lay their globular, shining white eggs in holes of trees or banks of streams. According to legend, Zeus changed Ceyx and Alcyone into Kingfishers, while the father of Alcyone calmed the weather while they formed their floating nest upon the ocean! Their note is generally nothing more than tcit-tcit. or *tit-it*; but in some species, a loud derisive laugh. There are in all, twenty genera and some two hundred species, of which eleven only belong to the New World.

MOT-MOTS.—Closely related to Kingfishers and the Rollers of the Old World, are the Mot-Mots, all twenty-four species of which belong to the Neotropical regions. The Houtouli of this colony is a good example. In habits they resemble the Wood-Kingfishers, feeding on insects, lizards, etc., and also fruit. The feathers are loose and often beautiful in colour, green or greenish red prevailing. The Houtouli and some other species nibble off the vanes from the long tail feathers, making them raquet-like. The legs are short and the feet small; and, unlike Kingfishers, they have three toes in front; their tongue is a long flat bristle; the beak is serrated. They lay their eggs in the holes of trees or banks. Their cry is a muffled note, something like: *mot, mot-mot-mot, mot-mot*, and some times, very loud, like the muffled bark of a dog. They are by no means shy, but this may be due to a want of intelligence.

KINGFISHERS—(Colonial). *Alcidinidae.*

Collared Kingfisher	*Ceryle torquata.*
Belted ..	.. *alcyon.*
Amazonian ..	.. *amazona.*
White-and-Green Kingfisher	.. *americana.*
Rufous-and-Green Kingfisher.	.. *inda.*
Pigmy Kingfisher (eye-browed)	.. *superciliosa.*
†Dappled-winged Kingfisher (?)	. *stictoptera*
The Houtouli	*Momotus momotus* (or *motmota*).

JACAMARS.—These birds greatly resemble Kingfishers in outward appearance and in their mode of catching their prey.

Sitting motionless upon some high branch of a tree they will suddenly dart down with the swiftness of an arrow upon some insect flying below, and with unerring aim. It will be noticed that their beaks are slenderer and sharper than the Kingfishers' and their plumage softer and more brilliantly metallic, being generally coppery or golden-green above and reddish below. They are found in the Neo-tropical regions. On account of the peculiar brilliancy of their plumage they have been called Large Humming Birds. The sexes are alike. They nest in holes like Kingfishers and like them, lay roundish, shining white eggs. The Paradise Jacamar is characterised by a median pair- of long , tapering, tail feathers. The Kingfisher-Jacamar differs from all others in possessing only three toes, the hallux being absent. There are six genera and twenty-two species of these birds.

Jacamars—(Colonial). *Galbulinae.*

Paradise Jaçamar	*Urogalba paradisea.*
Green ,,	*Galbula viridis.*
*Red-tailed Jaçamar	,, *ruficauda.*
White-beaked ,,	,, *albirostris.*
*Bright-vented ,,	,, *leucogaster.*
Brown ,,	*Brachygalba lugubris.*
Kingfisher ,, (?)	*Jaçamaralcyon tridactyla.*
The Great ,,	*Jaçamerops aurea.*

Trogons.—Trogons are singularly beautiful birds, forming a distinct class. They are somewhat hawk-like in form, but very different in colouring. Bright, metallic blue or purple above, pale yellow below, with delicate markings of white, black, or grey, are common colourings. The feathers are soft and silky and the skin so thin and tender that they easily come off with rough handling; there is no under-down. The tail-feathers are often curiously squared and are often barred or striped, hawk-like, underneath. In the Quezal (*Pharomacrus mocinno*) the tail upper coverts extend enormously beyond the rectrices, the two median ones being the longest. The bird is found in Central America and probably not in this colony.

The bill is wide at the gape and beset with bristles. The maxilla is notched at the end and both mandibles are often toothed or serrated. The feet are weak and heterodactyl, the second toe being reversed—an arrangement unique among the birds. They live in the thick forest and feed principally upon fruit and insects which they take on the wing. Their flight is noiseless and rapid but short and jerky. They are generally silent but sometimes cluck, whistle or chatter. They lay their roundish eggs of white, light blue or buff, in holes of trees, which they will make or enlarge on a rotten tree or stump. While most of the Trogons belong to America, species, generally of a more sober hue, are found in Africa, India, China, and the East. That they are ancient forms is shown by the discovery of the *Trogon gallicus* in the lower Miocene of France. The order includes some fifty species, included in five genera.

TROGONS—(Colonial). *Trogonidae*

Quezal or Long-tailed Trogon (?)	*Pharomacrus mocinno.*
Masked Trogon	*Trogon personatus.*
Green-breasted Trogon	,, *atricollis.*
Purple-breasted ,,	,, *viridis.*
Blue-headed ,,	,, *meridonalis.*
Red-breasted ,,	,, *melanurus.*

To be continued.

The Breeding of the Indian Shamah.

By G. E. Low,

A cock Indian Shamah has now been in my possession for somewhere about four years, and, although very anxious to secure a mate for him, I never had an opportunity of doing so until the autumn of last year, when, through the kindness of our Hon. Editor, a hen became my property. She was charmingly tame from the very first, and, although kept in different cages during the winter, the pair saw quite a lot of each other from time to time. The cock always became wildly excited when the hen appeared, breaking forth into excited singing and contracting all his feathers until he looked exceedingly slim and smart. The hen answered back from my hand in her own very pretty song which, is quite as melodious in its way as any of the numerous refrains the cock produces.

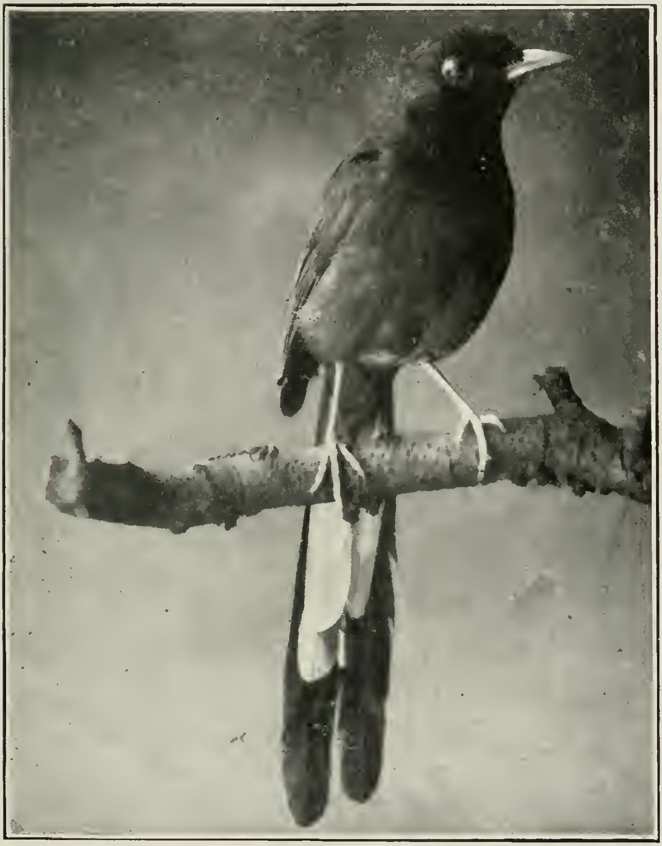
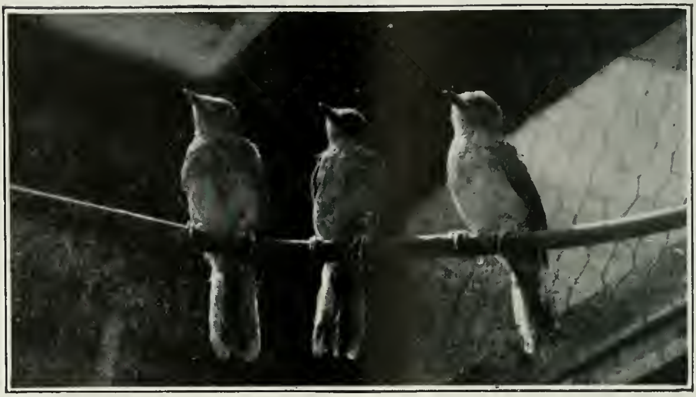
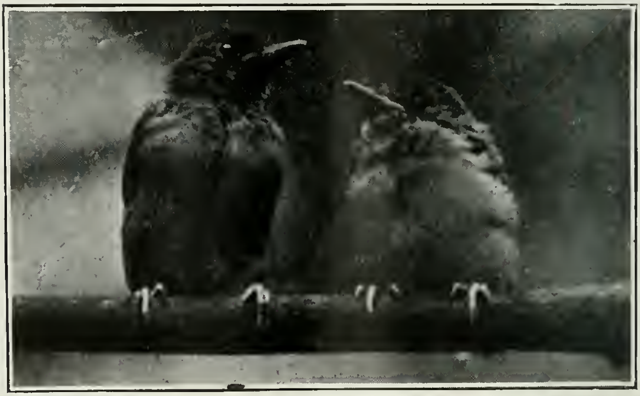


Photo G. E. Low.

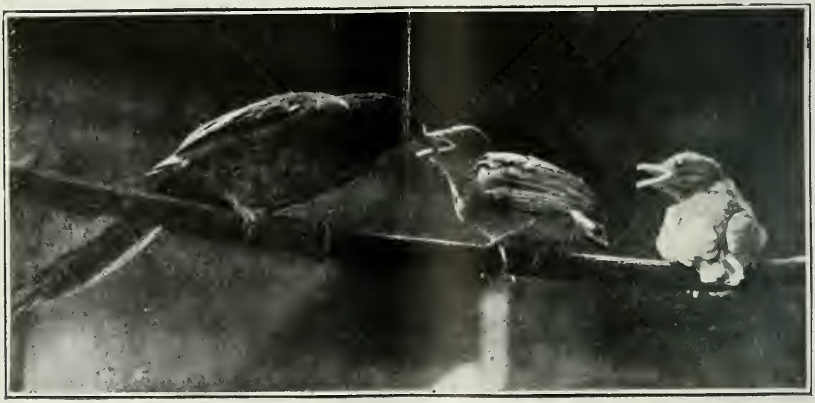
Indian Shamah ♂



Young Shamahs 29 days old.



Young Shamahs 13 days old.



Hen Shamah Feeding Young. *Photos G. E. Low.*

On May 12th both were turned into a small outdoor aviary, allocated solely to them, as I judged there would thus be a better chance of successfully breeding them.

The hen almost at once commenced to build a nest in a cork-covered box I had set up for the purpose, with a small entrance hole. Her husband didn't do a " hand's turn " at the building and contented himself with singing to her as she worked away.

On May 17th the first egg was laid, and one on each succeeding day until five were in the nest.

As in the building, so in incubating, all the work fell to the hen, but the cock took the greatest interest in the proceedings, frequently taking up a position from which he could catch a glimpse of his wife, as she sat on the eggs. On these occasions she often showed her pleasure at this attention by singing loudly, when he at once became very excited.

On June 1st three young birds were hatched out and one on the following day, nothing resulting from the remaining egg.

On the fourth day after hatching the ridges of the wing feathers were clearly visible and the young had assumed a dusky hue. On the eighth day I noticed they were covered with quills which commenced to burst on the following day, and on the eleventh day the first young bird left the nest, the rest making their exit the next day. All were able to fly quite respectably. The food supplied was live ants' cocoons, cockroaches (which they were very fond of, and are an invaluable food), gentles, and mealworms. I was advised to give the last-named cut up, but I am not satisfied that this is a wise plan, as in the operation of killing which all food has to go through, the inside is spueezed out, and practically only the skin served to the younger. A better plan, to my mind, is only to provide small mealworms in the early stages, merely pinching the head of each worm in a pair of forceps which effectually kills them.

After leaving the nest the young progressed rapidly, very soon learning to take baths and comb their hair, and, I noticed the young cock—the only one, I think, of his sex in the brood—making a very good attempt at singing six days after leaving the nest.

The hen commenced laying again on June 18th, and hatched out three more young on July 2nd, one day earlier than the first brood. As I write, the parents appear to be looking after this family well and I am hoping they may successfully rear them also.

The other four young birds have been transferred to a large cage and appear to be quite happy and not suffering from any undue diminution of appetite thereby.

KEEPING THE FOOD MOIST: I have latterly been experimenting with food dishes with a view to preventing rapid drying up of the insectile mixture which is difficult to avoid in this warm weather. I am now trying the effect of putting the food in a small porous flower-pot saucer which is placed in another the same size containing a little water. I find this keeps the food moist all day, and furthermore I think the rough surface will prevent uneven growth of beaks which often results from feeding birds in cages out of glazed dishes. This may be quite an old idea.

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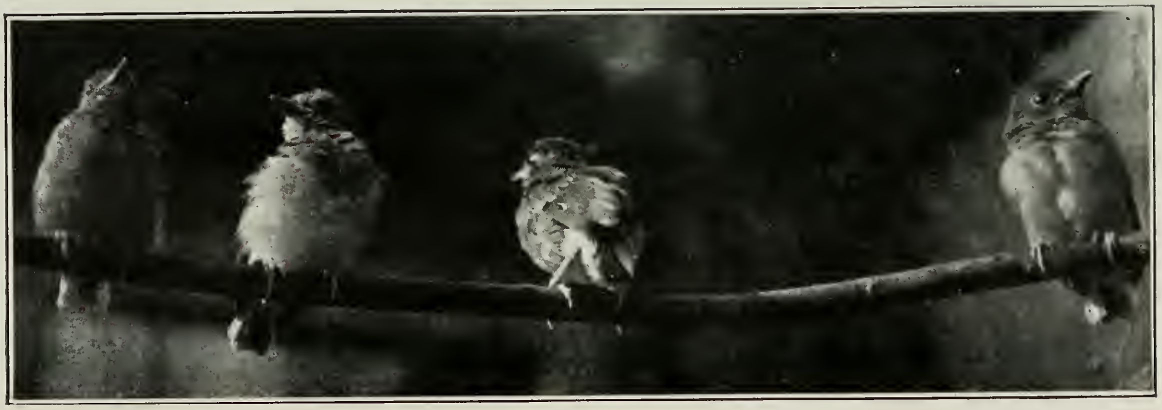
Early Experiences.

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S. ETC.

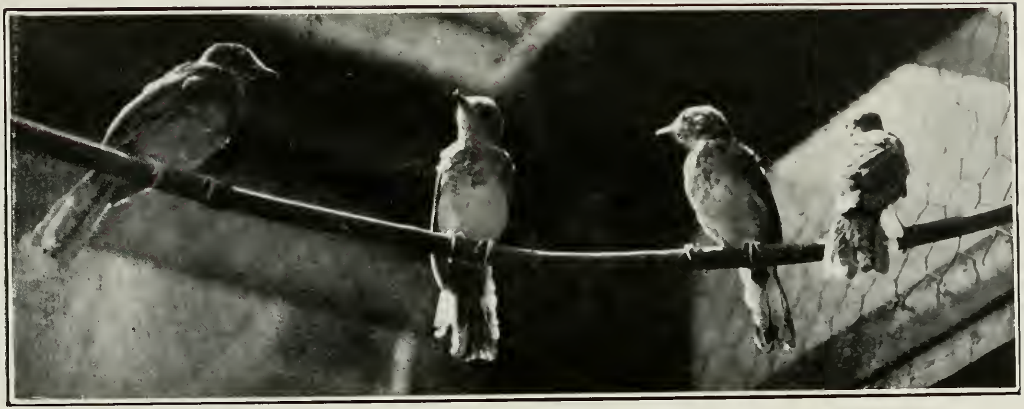
(Continued from page 123).

In my very early experiences my cages and *small* aviaries were confined chiefly to British hardbills, and I purpose commenting on these first. Most of them were captured by means of the sieve-trap, operated by a long piece of cord from a distance. Such as bullfinches, goldfinches and siskins were mostly obtained from the local dealer; but redpolls, greenfinches, linnets, chaffinches, accentors, and blue and great tits, etc., were captured in the garden.

I may say at once as regards the last named (tits), that no attempt was made to breed them, my accommodation being then quite insufficient; they were simply kept as cage pets. Losses were very few, though no real attempt at meating-off was made. They were fed on hemp and sunflower seeds, shelled nuts, bits of fat and suet, cake crumbs, and insects, and they throve well.



Young Shamahs, 16 days old.



Young Shamahs, 29 days old.

Photos G. E. Low.

Losses were very small indeed among the birds caught in the garden, as these were fed on usual dry seeds supplemented by bunches of weeds (supply unlimited), in the stage of flower and seed.

Among the bullfinches, goldfinches, and siskins, casualties were both numerous and disheartening, as these birds are usually fed by the dealers, from the moment they get them, on dry seed alone, and only a small percentage were saved by giving them *fresh* heads of seeds of our indigenous wild plants.

GREENFINCHES: I used to be rather fond of this brightly coloured but stoutly built species, and as they were prolific breeders they proved of great interest to me. S
breed with me in a small aviary, 7′ x 4′, that many had to be given their liberty as soon as they were able to fend for themselves. Their diet when rearing young was: seed mixture, cake crumbs, and an unlimited supply of green weeds, in a state of flower and seed; and on this *régime* I may say that almost without exception, all young hatched out were fully reared In those days my aviaries contained no plant life, and the birds mostly built their nests in small square boxes, home-made and of the canary nest box type; a few nests were constructed amid the twiggy branches lining the back of the aviary. The habits of this well known species, plumage of nestlings, etc., are common knowledge to nearly all our members and I shall not occupy space by further allusion thereto. I may add that I have several records of 12, 13, and 14 days as the incubation period.

GOLDFINCHES: This, I think, most Britishers are agreed is our most beautiful indigenous seedeater. Yet a large number of these are annually sacrificed by putting them on to a dry seed diet at once. When wild, even in dry weather, most of their food is in a more or less moist condition (either saturated with dew, or from the only partially ripened condition of the wild seeds they feed upon), and they are quite unable to properly assimilate hard dry seed straight away, and numbers are lost from this cause.

I had several interesting instances of them successfully rearing young in bird-room flights, rabbit hutch-like cages, and small unplanted out-door aviary. They were fed exactly the same as the greenfinches, save that they got teazle seed (fresh and dry) and unlimited thistle heads. In every case they built their nests in small, canary-type nest-boxes; the incubation period varying from 11 to 14 days. The majority of the young hatched out were fully reared, most of which were profitably disposed of. In only one instance did a pair have a second brood, but considering the primitive character of their quarters, mostly overstocked, the marvel is that any were reared. From later experiences I deduce that in most instances two broods would have been reared had I removed the young as soon as they could fend for themselves.

BULLFINCHES: Another beautiful British finch and a general favourite with all bird-lovers. I was very successful in breeding this species, rearing quite a number of them in those early days (over forty years ago), and I attribute that success entirely to keeping them supplied with their natural wild food—unlimited greenfood, twigs with buds on, fruit, berries, and fresh seed of indigenous wild plants; as when feeding young they partook very sparingly indeed of the usual dry seed *menu*. I may state that they eat freely of unripe privet and elder berries, also the unopened flower buds of same. I should also state that all the finches got a handful of stuff from the entomological sweep-net once or twice daily and thus secured many insects. The proportion of fully reared young to those hatched out was less than with the other species; but certainly sixty per cent of them reached maturity. I am often tempted to renew my acquaintance with British species, especially considering the dearth of foreign species in these war days, but my aviaries were not completed in time this season for me to arrange.

SISKINS: Another British species which rivals many foreign species in beauty of plumage, while for interesting demeanour and general deportment in the aviary it is second to none. In only two instances did I succeed in rearing young, the last time being in 1886, when two young birds were fully reared; four eggs were laid, one was infertile, and three sisklings were hatched out, one disappearing on the third day. Their menu and general treatment was the same as that given to my goldfinches. I have omitted to state that this species built only in the twiggy branches; except one pair which occupied a canary breeding-cage, but though a nest was built and completed they did not lay. Incubation period thirteen days.

ACCENTORS (Hedge Sparrows): This very attractive but plainly clad species only once reared young (two) in my aviaries, and it is one of the most pleasing events I recall from those early times (thirty-six years ago). In a greenhouse, 12′ x 8′, which with the roof glass white-washed, and the whole interior lined with netting and fitted with twiggy branches round its sides and one end; also one or two dead heather and gorse bushes in the corners. In one of the corners, in a dead heather bush, only just above the ground, a typical hedge-sparrow's nest was built and I can, even now, visualise the charming picture of the nest and four beautiful blue eggs, and also recall my delight as I watched them, from the appearance of the first egg to the hatching of two callow young and after. They practically had the *full* menu mentioned in these notes, but these young were mainly reared upon the contents of the sweep-net for the first fourteen days, after which the parents began to give the general provender of the aviary. I have no record as to when they left the nest, but for some days after their exit they did not fly, but skulked under the heather and dusk found them in the nest again. They soon learned to forage for themselves and lived with me for over two years. I forget their ultimate destination, but believe they were given to a youth just starting the hobby of bird-keeping.

This species of plainly coloured plumage yet possesses a quiet beauty of its own—the perfect harmony of its browns and brown-greys leaves nothing to be desired.

(To be Continued).

Editorial.

DOVES: Mr. W. Shore Baily informs us that he has young of Bronze-wing, Brush Bronze-wing and Masked (Cape) Doves on the wing; also a hybrid Peaceful × Zebra Dove.

DIAMOND FINCHES, ETC.: Mr. H. Bright informs us that, in spite of many very promising nests, and much activity among the pairs, the only young birds (*i.e.* finch-like birds) fully reared are Diamond Finches and Pope Cardinals. The White-eye-browed Song-Sparrows have a very promising nest in one of his aviaries, and a clutch of eggs is being steadily incubated. Cocks of White-throated Song-Sparrows and Juncos, the latter especially so, have proved very disturbing and combative in the aviary and one or two tragedies have resulted therefrom.

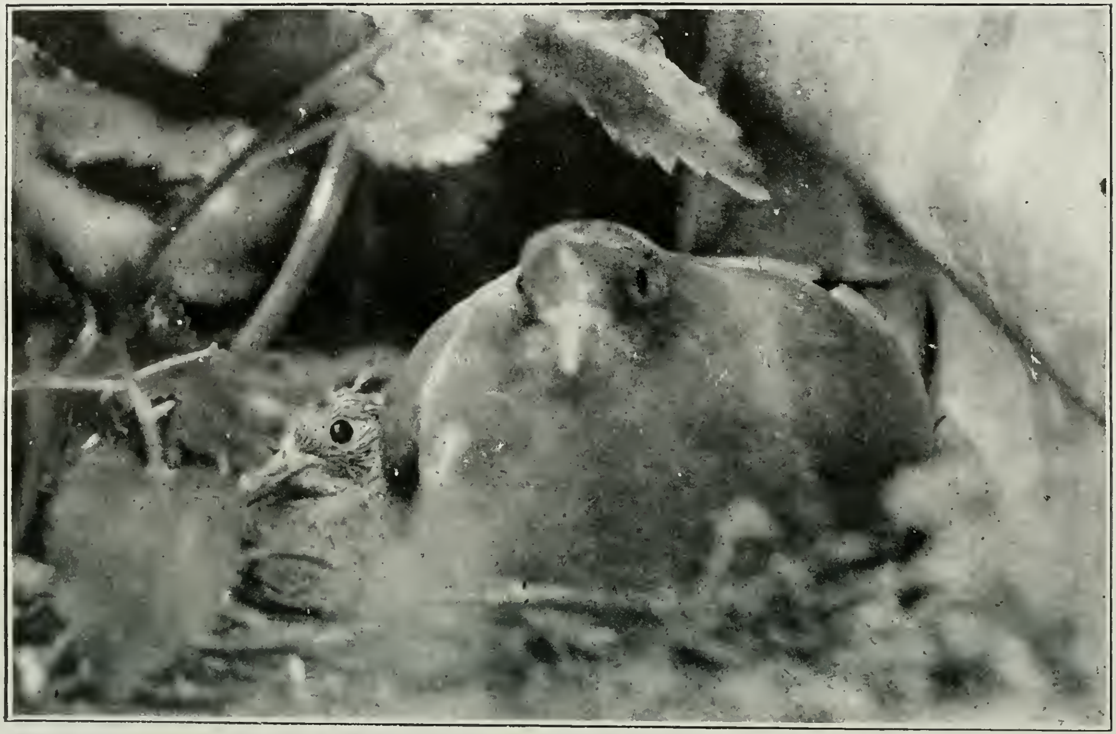
YOUNG CHAFFINCHES: In Mr. Page's garden, nests and young of this species have been very numerous this year, one of which nests happened to be over the two pheasant runs, into which two young birds dropped and hopped about quite unconcernedly, feeding on the pheasants' soft food They remained in during the whole of the day and were there the next morning, had become quite tame. He feared that as soon as they left the pheasantry (covered with 2in. mesh netting) that they would fall a prey to some maurading cat, so he caught them up (with his hand), and put them in a smallish aviary with some Australian grassfinches, etc., and they did well. For the first fortnight they fed on nothing but moistened insectile mixture, then began to take seed and to forage for insects, etc., among the tangle of wild growth in the aviary. They still take some insectile mixture. Mr. Page opines they left the nest prematurely, and so far as his observations went, the parent birds never visited their young either in the pheasantry or aviary, so presumably they were only part of the brood.

COCKATOO HYBRIDS: Our member, Mrs. M. A. Lee, has a brood of hybrids between the Roseate (*Cacatua roseicapilla*) and Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (*C. galerita*) all but ready to leave the nest. These should prove very handsome hybrids. The instances of cockatoos reproducing their kind in captivity are not numerous, and we congratulate Mrs. Lee on this success. Further details will appear in a near issue.

ZOO NOTES: The species reported as "Bred in the menagerie" in the Zoo lists for April and May are as under:—

1 Green White-eye (*Zosterops virens*).
1 Grey Singing Finch (*Crithagra musica*.
1 Pileated Song-Sparrow (*Zonotrichia pilcata*).
2 Auriculated Doves (*Zenaida auriculata*).
2 Southern Triangular-spotted Pigeons (*Columba phaeonata*).

BLUE BUDGERIGARS: Our member Mr. J. W. Marsden has already two of this lovely variety among his young birds this season; also one young parti-coloured bird, green with numerous blue areas. This makes the third season Mr. Marsden has procured some blues from cross-bred parents, *i.e.* bred from the green, blue, and pale yellow varieties; the green and blue blood predominating.



Green Fruit-Pigeon and young. *Photo W. Shore Baily.*

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

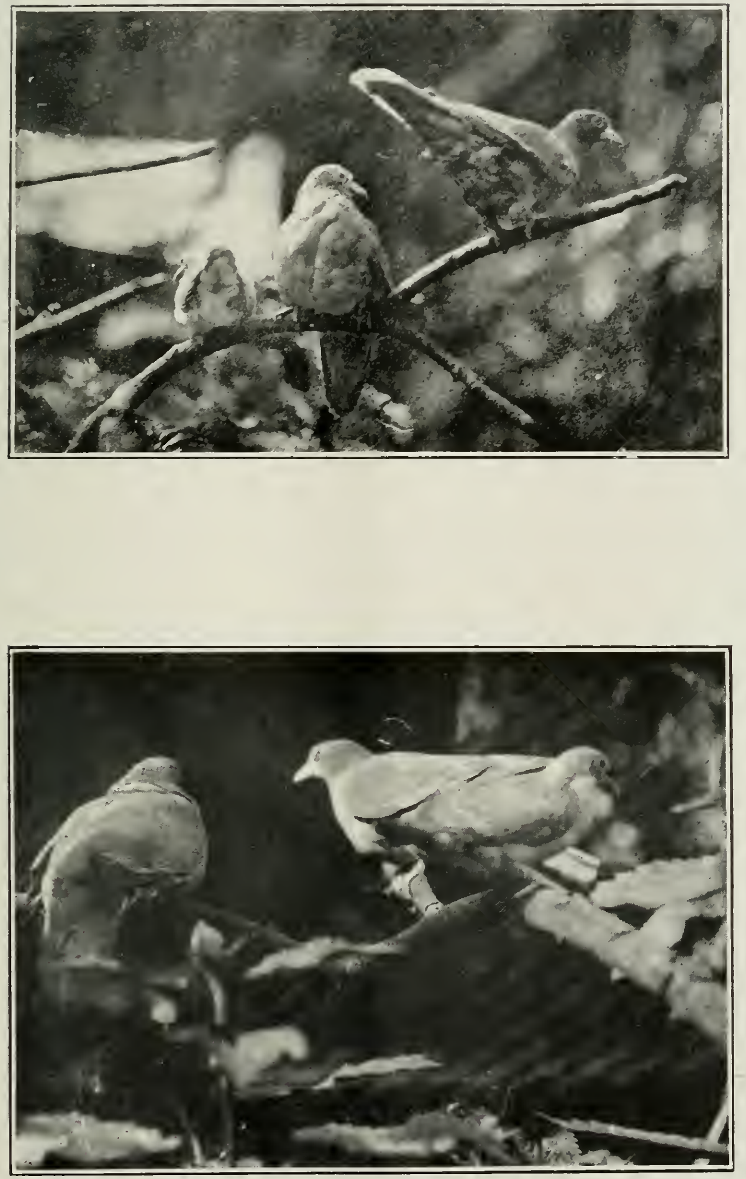
JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Breeding of the Green Fruit Pigeon.

Sphenocercus sphenurus.

By W. Shore Baily.

A few weeks ago I sent you a few notes on my Green Fruit Pigeons, and remarked therein that I had neither seen them on the ground, nor drinking water. Since writing those notes, my birds have, strange to say, elected to go to nest on the ground, and are regularly seen at the water vessel Of course the conditions at the present time are as different as possible to what they were in the winter. Now the weather is extremely hot, and, besides that, they have a hungry young one to feed, so a certain quantity of water is necessary to them, but, I still think that in cool weather they can do very well without it. At the end of April the hen began to do a good deal of singing, to which the cock by no means responded, so, as our Editor was at that time advertising an odd hen, I decided to secure it, and see what a change of wives would do. The advent of the new bird caused considerable excitement in the aviary. Both birds and especially the hen, bullied the newcomer terribly; so much so in fact, that I had to remove her. The new hen, although not such a fine bird as my first female, was wonderfully tame, and would come on my hand when called. She was evidently most anxious to go to nest, so, as the other two still disagreed, I decided to substitute her in the place of the other hen. This substitution scheme worked a good deal better than some of those arranged by our present military authorities. As soon as the new hen was introduced to the cock, she made most violent love to him, and mating at once took place. The next day they selected a building site and the day after an egg was laid. The hen now became still more familiar, and greeted me every time I visited the aviary, by alighting on my head, and once, when I took my brother, who belongs to the hatless brigade, in to see the nest, she pitched on his head also. As his natural head covering is now a little thin on top, and the Dove's claws were almost as sharp as needles, the attention was not appreciated. An attempt at this time to photograph her on the nest failed, as she would persist on pitching on the camera and trying to swallow the lens. Whether this attempt at photography disturbed them, or whether they were annoyed by the mischievous attentions of some Conures which evidently wished to share in the duties of incubation, I don't know, but the hen refused to sit and the cock, after sitting a few days alone, also gave it up. I removed the Conures, and a few days afterwards saw the hen Dove again carrying sticks. To my astonishment, she selected as a site for her nest, a corner of the flight in which a bed of nettles was growing, and here she built it upon the ground. Both birds sat very steadily, easily scaring away a pair of Chukor Partridges if they ventured too near. Just fourteen days after the first egg was laid I saw an egg-shell outside the nest. The eggs, by the way, are very small for the size of the bird, and not much more than half the size of those of the Australian Bronzewings, birds of about the same weight. On the sixth day the little Pigeon was feathering rapidly, and on the twelfth day I found it roosting on a branch with its parents. It was then fully feathered except for its wings and tail, but, in spite of the shortness of its flights, it was quite able to fly short distances. The hen now became quite fierce, and most violently attacked the hen Partridge. It was most amusing to watch the hen waddling after it at a great pace, all the time grunting fiercely. Had there not been plenty of natural cover in which the Partridge could take shelter, it would have fared badly. I hope that when the Chukors' own eggs hatch, they will not turn the tables on the Pigeons. In colour the young Pigeon closely resembles its mother, but the green body colour is duller, the under parts are dirty white instead of pale chrome-yellow, and the wing coverts are edged with white. The bill is greyish brown instead of bright blue. It was fed principally upon banana, but milk-sop, boiled rice, and soaked maize were also



Photos W. Shore Baily.

Green Fruit-Pigeons and Young.

eaten by the parent birds. When it was a fortnight old, the supply of bananas failed, owing to the sinking of fruit boats by enemy submarines, but our Editor and one or two other friends came to the rescue, and I was able to carry on. On June 22nd, the hen again laid, using the same nest, so there is every chance of my getting one or two more little ones this season.

July 4th.—Since writing the above, the hen has again refused to sit. The cock after sitting night and day for a week gave it up in despair. The eggs were both fertile. I have now removed the hen and the young one, and shall give the cock back his original wife. He may now perhaps treat her better.

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Birds Seen in the Suburbs of Calcutta.

By E. W. Harper, M.B.O.U.

To those who have not had an opportunity of visiting India perhaps a short account of the wild birds seen during an early morning stroll round one of the residential suburbs of Calcutta may not prove uninteresting.

It is the end of May, our " hot season," at Calcutta, and the temperature has recently been as high as 103° in the shade. Although up-country a higher reading occurs (115° to 120°) yet the heat there is dry, and not so enervating as the damp heat of Calcutta.

We will commence with the House Crow *(Corvus splendens)* chiefly because of his numbers, but also on account of his intelligence and audacity. Unfortunately, he bears a *very* bad character : Dewar in his *Bird Calendar for Northern India* refers to the Crow as " that arch villain"; and Finn, in his *Garden and Aviary Birds*, calls him a "grey-headed scoundrel "! The Crow is extremely omnivorous : a canary dragged from its cage in the verandah; food snatched from the dining table; grain dropped from a passing bullock cart on the round; locusts; a dead rat lying in the gutter—all are ravenously devoured by *C. splendens*.

At the present time crows are engaged in the important duty of rearing a family. Some are building, some sitting, and others feeding their fully-fledged young after leaving the nest. Looking up into a large tree overhanging the road, we see a young speckled Koel—Black Cuckoo—(*Endynamis honorata*), fully fledged, sitting on a bough with wings quivering, crying for food. A few feet away, one on each side of it, sit its foster-parents, two crows. They seem now to realise how they have been duped in rearing a bird of another species. They look first at the quivering wonder, then at each other, and we can almost fancy we hear one of them say " Well, of all the ——," to which the other replies quietly, " Never mind, we won't tell anybody! " The *modus operandi* of the parent Koels is for the male to go near the Crows' nest and persuade the owners to give chase; the female then slips in and deposits her egg. The Koel's name is derived from its call, " Kó-el, Kó-el," repeated many times, with the accent upon the first syllable. When pursued by its host, the Crow, the Koel's cry takes the undignified form of " Kuk, Kuk." As a cage-bird the Koel is a favourite with the natives; and is so hardy that it will thrive upon a diet of plain boiled rice.

A party of Jungle Babblers *(Crateropus canorus)*, after busily turning over leaves on the ground, fly lazily into a tree overhead. The native name for the bird is *Sath Bhar*, literally " seven brothers." The plumage is dust-coloured, and the feathers are often raised in an attitude inviting feather-preening, as they " snuggle " close alongside each other. An isabelline freak of this species is sometimes met with.

Walking about a cricket ground in true starling-like manner are two species of Mynah, viz.: the Common Mynah *(Acridotheres tristis)* and the Pied Mynah *(Sturnopastor contra)*. The former is one of the commonest birds of the plains, and is often kept as a cage-bird by the natives; the latter bird is more insectivorous than the former.

A stranger would naturally ask, " What is that metallic sound, ' Tonk, Tonk, Tonk,' " uttered so monotonously and so persistently? It is the voice of the Coppersmith Barbet (*Xantholæma hæmatocephala)*, a brightly-coloured green bird, about the size of a bullfinch, with forehead, breast, and feet red, and face yellow. Like all Barbets, its toes are in pairs. Its beak is large and powerful, to enable the bird to cut a round hole, the diameter of its body, in a tree for nesting purposes. Unlike the little boy who was told to be " seen, but not heard," the Coppersmith is continuously heard but seldom seen, owing to its protective green colouring. Kipling speaks of " Koel, little Koel, singing on the iris bough," but it seems likely that he meant the Coppersmith. A bird the size of a pigeon and nearly half a yard long can hardly be referred to as " little!"

Overhead, wheeling, and soaring, or perched on tall trees or the tops of houses, are numbers of Kites (*Milvus govinda*). Their native name *cheel*, like that of so many Indian birds, is derived from their cry, *ch-e-e-e-e-l*, drawn *out* almost to a squeal. The kite is, alas! little more than a scavenger; it frequents slaughter-houses and meat-markets, and follows rubbish carts. Meat exposed in a basket on a coolie's head as he walks home from market is sure to be seized in the talons of a far-seeing kite. Soldiers used to catch Kites by spreading a blanket on the ground, and tying a piece of meat in the middle of it. A Kite swooping down at the meat would entangle its talons in the blanket, and before they could be extricated the bird was captured by hand. To show that the kite responds to kindness, the following true tale will prove. About twenty years ago, when the writer was staying up in the Himalayas at about 7,000 feet altitude, he found an exhausted Kite one morning, blown in his verandah during a terrific storm. After a feed, the Kite was tethered by a leather strap to a wooden stand. The bird was fed daily, and after a few weeks the strap was removed and the bird liberated. To the writer's astonishment, the bird showed no inclination to depart. Every day the Kite would go for a fly, always returning to the verandah in which its stand was kept. This went on for some months, until the Kite was exchanged with a friend for a large Owl.

Thousands of feet up in the blue sky the Vultures soar for hours, without a beat of the wings. At that great height they look like mere specks in the heavens. Revolting creatures are vultures! Some years ago when the writer was visiting the

Salt Lakes near Calcutta, where rubbish is dumped, he expressed surprise at the numbers of vultures gorged so that they were unable to fly. Hundreds of others were in the air. To show the rapidity with which these birds perform their ghastly duties, the body of a dead horse was brought out for them. In about twenty minutes the bones were all picked clean!

Other birds were seen and heard; but time and space only permit of the mention of one, namely, the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). He is just as confiding here as in England, though less numerous. Probably on account of Crows and other big birds which keep him in his place, he is neither so mischievous nor so harmful to more useful birds, as he is in England. The writer respects the Sparrow's confidence, by allowing him to nest and rear his young inside the bungalow unmolested.

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Foreign Birds.

THEIR ADAPTABILITY AND INDIVIDUALITY.

By J. A. Swan.

[The following article, reprinted from "Bird Notes," February, 1902, is so crammed with interest as to call for a second appearance, especially as the vol. in which it appeared is now out of print. It will also serve to remind present members that we are getting quite an old society now, and have quite a lengthy past to be proud of; also that such back vols. as yet remain in print are well worth a place on the bookshelves of our newer members.—Ed.

To the thoughtful and studious aviculturist there are few phases of bird-life more interesting and lovable than that of the readiness of most of our foreign friends to adapt themselves to the altered conditions under which they must necessarily live in captivity, and the many distinct and charming little ways they possess, which often enable us to recognise them when other means fail, even when in the midst of a number of their fellows.

Examples of most species of foreign birds have, at some time or other, endured captivity, and in some instances they have taken so kindly to the loss of freedom as to live with us for a number of years, cases being on record in which they have even exceeded the probable age they would have reached in their wild state. I do not myself hold with the general opinion that this is entirely due to the intelligence and knowledge we ourselves show in dealing with our captives. That we have discovered and use food which is suitable for them is an undisputed fact; but that this is a *natural* food can easily be disproved by a little investigation into their habits in a wild and captive condition, and the question then, is why do we not supply them with their proper food? It is because, in a measure, of our ignorance as to what comprises their natural nourishment, and also because when we know the right food we are unable to supply them with it. Take almost any species of what we call seed-eating birds, and it will be found that by far the larger part of their natural food consists of insects. We are, therefore, at a great disadvantage in keeping such birds in the best condition; but nevertheless, most of our seed-eating birds so readily adapt themselves to circumstances, that they often become as well nigh perfect in health and plumage as it is possible for them to be. Let me instance the Weavers, which are pre-eminently seed-eating species according to our most learned writers: "Only needing a few mealworms now and again to keep them in condition." This we know to be true, yet I have times without number seen my Weavers making unceasing efforts to catch the common house fly, and woe betide the unwary insect which ventures within the wires of the aviary. I have also seen them minutely examining the crevices in the wall, and the leaves of shrubs, while now and again they leave their perch for an instant to dart seemingly into empty space, then wheel about and return to their resting place; the only indication of the purpose of this apparently useless effort being the satisfied manner in which they open and close their beaks for a second or two. And if these birds are so keen over insects in captivity, surely with no less avidity they make them their principal food in freedom.

Respecting insectivorous and fruit-eating birds. We are able, to a very great extent, to supply the needs of the latter with natural food, which is probably the reason why many of these delicate creatures are more hardy, when acclimatized, than some of the seed-eating species, which often suffer from constipation and liver disease. With other soft-billed birds, which should require a large number of insects to keep them in good health, we again labour under our inability to supply them with natural food—yet soft-billed birds, generally, are not more difficult to keep in captivity than fruit-eaters proper. Some may find the reverse to be the case, in fact; but just consider for a moment what we offer most to these species: fruit,correct; bullock's liver, scraped beef, bread, potato, grated carrot, egg, and sometimes a heterogeneous mass of heaven knows what, called "Insectivorous food!" If from the latter we subtract a few dried flies and some ants "eggs" or cocoons, how much of the foregoing can the birds obtain in a state of liberty?

The longevity of our pets in captivity is of course considerably influenced by their constitution when captured, and general hardiness as a species. Climatic conditions, while guiding us in their treatment, are by no means an infallible test as to the amount of heat or cold a given bird will stand with health and safety to itself. To the uninitiated it is a matter of surprise to be told, when seeing a bird in good condition, that its original home was in tropical Africa, or the forests of South America. And perhaps few of us realise what an immense difference exists in a bird's mode of life when transported from such a land to a small prison in our bleak island.

And now first let me pass to the other and perhaps more popular side of a bird's nature, viz., its individuality. To the vast majority of people, who are not aviculturists, a bird is simply a bird. To those, however, who find keen enjoyment in the company of birds, they are personal creatures, each with ideas and manners peculiar to itself. To thoroughly grasp and appreciate this fact needs a close and watchful eye on their actions; and in a large aviary, containing a proportionate number of birds, it is almost an impossibility to learn their respective characteristics, unless one has special reasons to single out and mark the doings of any particular specimen. But if, owing to circumstances or choice, some have their pets in their own rooms, this pleasant feature of bird life is easily and quickly noted. Each have their little traits which are often sufficient to distinguish them from their cage-mates. Of course in some birds these traits are more pronounced than in others, and where we fail to notice any it is simply because the little mannerisms are too minute for our eyes to note; but they are undoubtedly prominent to their feathered companions.

The most prominent distinctions by which we know our birds, are those of plumage and tameness, and it generally requires but little observation to identify them by these means, unless several of the same species are in the aviary together. Then it is that our close observations stand us in good stead and enable us to identify them with certainty. Among the more common and more easily noticed actions is a liking for a particular perch by one bird, another has a pronounced peaceful or pugnacious disposition, another is full of energy, while others may be just the reverse: yet another may delight in, or have a marked antipathy to, bathing, and I have known some birds have a preference for one particular seed pan. No doubt a few minutes' reflection will readily recall to our minds some of the pretty little ways by which we learnt to love and remember our tiny friends. Personally I can remember many of my pets now, alas! no more, by the intelligent little mannerisms they had. Particularly do I recall a certain cock Zebra Finch. Within a short time of coming into my possession this engaging mite would always fly to meet me whenever I went near his house, and, getting on the perch nearest to me, he would chatter away like an M.P. Then hop, skip, and away for a seed or a drink, and back again more voluble than before. Many a long discussion did we have, and I had hard work at times to get a word in edgeways, for he would not be talked down. And if I learnt nothing but a deeper and more affectionate liking for the whole feathered race, and himself in particular, I consider my time as by no means illspent, for was I not conversing with nature through that small bundle of feathers? I used to look forward to these little chats, and so I think did he, for he never disappointed me, and now—poor little "Imp" has gone.

One might compile a book respecting this individuality in birds, but a few more instances among my own friends may suffice. Weavers are great favourites of mine, and, I think possess intelligence in a marked degree: who can see their nests and doubt it? But I am dealing with matters which are not always intelligible to ourselves. For instance one of my Orange Bishops has a trick of closing the eye which is turned to the front of the aviary. At first I thought it might be a cold—but no—he turned round soon after and closed the other. Then, thought I, he closes them both; but like the stag in the fable, he keeps his weather eye open, and knows all that goes on among his friends. Another Orange Bishop has such a sleek and prosperous air, and a decided disinclination for too much exercise, that he passes for the "Alderman."

A Crimson-crowned Bishop is a very good natured fellow, and is quite content to pass his time laying the foundations of new nests—and there he leaves them and starts another. A Napoleon, appropriately enough, tries to accomplish the task of completing these many pieces of architecture, but never has time to finish one on account of the many that require his attention. Another Crimson-crowned Weaver has a shocking temper, and a short time ago his head and neck were almost bare of feathers through his successive "mills." As he finds he doesn't always get matters his own way, he has quieted down considerably lately, and seems to be reflecting on the situation. And perhaps it is time, when a small Zebra Finch gives him a good thrashing first, and then lectures him on his conduct afterwards! Then there is a Saffron Finch who is a confirmed "tippler," though seemingly in the best of health. And why should a certain Black-headed Mannikin prefer to have a shower bath when his companions bathe, rather than do as they and have a bath of his own? Or a Bengali distinguish himself and get dubbed "Diogenes," simply because he chose to pass his time in an ornamental straw nest? Or a—but no, I must not trespass further on our limited space, beyond congratulating Miss Alderson on her Shamah, which is certainly a very good mathematician, and another instance of individuality in birds.

One more instance, and this time a perfectly understandable one occurs to me. Why should one of my Grey Singing Finches always sleep leaning against a perch, or the wires of the aviary? And the reason in this case is because he has only one leg—and a very good reason too, don't you think?

Early Experiences.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S. Etc.

(Concluded from page 145).

Erratum: In the last instalment on page 153, line 12, a few words slipped out of type at the moment of going to press. " S," should read " *So freely did they.*"

My successes with the Lesser Redpoll (this species I also bred in 1915 from birds presented to me by Capt. J. S. Reeve), and Linnets bear so strong a family likeness to those already given that they may be dismissed with this bare mention, save to add that in each case I had only one success after several failures, and that in each instance two young birds were reared to maturity.

I may also say that with regard to foreign species a list of my successes has been already given and brief notes concerning them have been, or will be, given later when my article " The Endurance of Birds " is resumed, I hope in our September issue.

I only propose to give an account of my success with Ribbon Finches *(Amadina fasciata)* here. I only gave 3/6 for my pair of birds, and fortunately they proved not only to be of amiable disposition (not always the case by any means), but also a " breeding pair," so I had no cause to regret my bargain.

As they were in quite a small aviary, which provided accommodation only for about a dozen birds, yet contained over thirty, and, strange to say, I never had a larger percentage of successes, speaking comparatively of the number kept, in any one season than I did in this very much overcrowded and artificially fitted little aviary.

They were put out, straight from the travelling-cage, in the month of June, and after the customary excitement, which always follows the introduction of new comers, had settled down and I was able to observe them a little I was delighted with my new acquisitions. For a few days they had rather a rough time with the larger of the other inmates of the aviary, notably Java

Sparrows, Bramble and Greenfinches. Soon, however, they settled down, and then were more than able to hold their own, though I never discovered them as being the aggressors in the many squabbles that occurred in the aviary. Within a week of their arrival they were busy examining the various nesting boxes with which the aviary was abundantly furnished, visiting almost each one in turn. Then began a frenzied carrying of nesting material into the one of their choice, but only to give it up and repeat their operations in another box; and similar procedure occurred with a third receptacle, only to be given up in its turn; then they turned their attention to the middle section of a three compartment nest-box, the side sections of which were occupied by pairs of Silverbills and Java Sparrows respectively. They carried in a huge amount of material, almost closing up the entrance to the box, so that a peep inside was impossible. While these operations were going on the excitement of Mr. Ribbon Finch was immense, and I can well recall that my own was scarcely less. Suddenly he sobered down, and except when feeding spent the whole of his time either in the nest or entrance of same, scaring off any other bird that dared to approach by his simply unprintable language. Then after a short interval one morning pandemonium reigned supreme in the aviary and by careful listening I heard faint hissing sounds from the nest, and the excitement of Mr. Ribbon Finch was at fever-heat, and his visits between the nest-box and food vessels were very frequent, while I did not glimpse his wife the whole day. The next morning I had a shock, for, on visiting the aviary, beneath the nest-box there lay Mr. Ribbon dead. Very sadly I picked him up and carefully examined his body; his plumage was as tight, brilliant, and silky as it was possible for a Ribbon Finch to be; he was plump, and no sign of injury was visible—his skin is now in my cabinet—in the light of later experience I have concluded the cause of his death was cerebral hemorrhage following the excitement of the appearance of a family of young Ribbon Finches in the nest.

I was very sad, as I saw my hopes of rearing the young Ribbons shattered. Mrs. Ribbon, however, had other views, and instead of wasting her time in useless grief she set about satisfying the wants of her famliy, but, I noticed, she did not seem entirely satisfied with either the seed or the soft food so I scattered on the ground some dried ants' "eggs," she went to these at once, ate a lot, then went to the nest and came out again for another supply—four times daily I scattered a handful of these ants' eggs on the ground (fortunately the other birds ignored this provender), and she seemed satisfied. All went well and she not only fed her babies (I did not know how many, but sound proclaimed more than one), but successfully defended her nest against all comers. About fourteen days after Mr. Ribbon's death she triumphantly led forth three young Ribbon Finches out of the security of the nest, and did not allow the other inmates to interfere with them.

The young consisted of one male and two females, and the ruby throat band of the former was very brilliant and full size on the morning he made his exit from the nest.

A little later both the Silverbills and Java Sparrows brought forth families from the compartments on either side of the Ribbon Finches' nest.

The young Ribbon Finches were reared to maturity, and the young male mated to his mother brought several families into the world the next season, in the same aviary.

Since those early days I have bred successfully quite a large number of foreign species, including some softbills, yet I cannot recall that in any after event was the pleasurable excitement so great as in the common-place event re-told above; for it was my initial success with foreign species.

With this little yarn I do not think I can do better than conclude, at any rate for the present, these "Early Experiences," or title and matter will not agree. Penned by request, and to fill up a gap during shortage of copy, the writer hopes that some of the younger and newer recruits to aviculture may derive some little help and encouragement therefrom.

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The Birds of British Guiana.

By Chas. Dawson, S.J., M.A., (Oxon).

This article is reprinted from the "Journal of the Board of Agriculture of Brit. Guiana," with our apologies and thanks to the Editor, Author and Proprietors.—Editor "Bird Notes."

PARROTS.

Under this head are included the following:—

Macaws, peculiar to the Neo-Tropical regions; *Cockatoos*, peculiar to the Australian regions; *Nestors* of New Zealand, including the Kea, which has recently become carnivorous, making havoc among sheep by digging into their kidneys for the sake of the fat; *Lories* of New Guinea and the Malay Archipelago; besides *Parrots* proper, *Parrakeets* and *Love-birds* found, with few exceptions, in all Tropical regions, though each with its peculiar orders and species.

Parrots are the most intelligent of all the feathered tribes. Possessing proportionately more brain than all the other birds, easily domesticated, prettily or even gaudily coloured, knowing in their ways, and with a wonderful capacity of imitating sounds and even the human voice, they are everywhere popular as pets and familiars.

Characteristics of the whole family are: round heads, zygodactyl feet, a highly dilatable iris, a fleshy tongue, and (what is common to no other bird), a pincer-like beak with a moveable maxilla (upper beak) and the use of the foot as a hand. We may also add "powder-down patches" which give to certain parrots when in good health the appearance of being covered with bloom. There are in all seventy-nine genera, including five hundred and seventy species, two hundred of which belong to the American Continents; one species, the Carolina Parrakeet being found in the United States.

The food of parrots consists of fruit, nuts, berries, and seeds. Lories feed on honey which they extract from flowers with their brush-tipped tongues; the Kakapo or Owl parrot of New Zealand will add lizards to its bill of fare and the Nestors, insects and their larvæ; while certain Cockatoos will dig in the the earth for roots and tubers.

Parrots pair for life, but congregate in great numbers at their roosting places where they make a deafening noise The sexes are generally alike, the males being larger and more brightly coloured; but in one species, the Electus of New Guinea, the male is green with red sides, and the female has head, breast, and upper parts bright red. Parrots generally make their nests in holes of trees which they will whittle out with their powerful beaks. Therein are laid the spheroid eggs, white or with a greenish or bluish tinge. They are long-lived.

PARROTS—(Colonial). *Psittacidae.*

Red and Yellow Macaw	*Ara macao.*
Red and Blue ,,	,, *chloroptera.*
Blue and Yellow ,,	,, *ararauna.*
*Green ,,	,, *severa.*
Eta ,,	,, *macavaanna.*
†Red - fronted Green Macaw (Hahn's)	,, *hahni.*
Brown-throated Parakeet	*Conurus aeruginosus.*
*†Scarlet-tipped Parakeet (bright-eyed)	,, *leucophthalmus.*
Kissi-Kissi Parakeet	,, *solstitialis.*
Golden-fronted Parakeet	,, *aureus.*
Scaly-breasted Parakeet	*Pyrrhura picta.*
Red-winged Parakeet	,, *egregia.*
*†All-Yellow Parakeet (Roraima Mt.)	*Bolborhynchus panychlorus.*
* (human-voiced)	*Brotogerys tirica.*
Golden-winged Parakeet	,, *chrysopterus.*
†Green red-rumped Parakeet	,, *tuipara.*
Black-winged Parakeet	*Urochroma cingulata.*
†Purple-clad Parakeet	,, *purpurata.*
	,, *henti.*
Amazon Parrot	*Amazona ochrocephala.*
Yellow-cheeked Amazon (Screecher)	,, *amazonica.*
Blue-cheeked Amazon (Culu-culu)	,, *dufresneana.*
Green Amazon (Saurama)	,, *farinosa.*
*	,, *bodini.*
Red-backed Amazon	,, *festiva.*
White-capped ,,	,, *aestiva.*
Blue-headed Parrot	*Pionus menstruus.*
Dusky ,,	,, *fuscus.*
†Fan-crested, or Hawk Parrot (Hya-hya)	*Deroptyus accipitrinus.*

Black-headed Parrot	*Pionopsittacus caica.*
White-breasted Parrot (seven-coloured)	*Pionites melanocephalus.*
*†All-green Love-bird	*Psittacula modesta.*
Guiana ,,	,, *guianensis.*
†Sparrow ,,	,, *passerina.*

TOUCANS.

Toucans or *Bill-birds*, as they are called in this colony, are easily recognised by their enormous beaks. What particular end these strange beaks serve were difficult to say, but it may be remarked that toucans can pick off a small berry or fruit with the greatest precision. The beaks, though so large, are of feather weight, being composed within of a delicate net-work of a light bony substance with air-spaces. They are generally notched or serrated and the tongue, which is long and arrow-like, has feather-like margins. In some species they are glossy black with margins of delicate blue or yellow; in others, brilliant red, golden yellow, or faded green are the predominant tones. The prevailing colours of the plumage are black or dark green above, white throats or gorgets, with bands or markings of gaudy reds and yellows. The orbits are bare, the skin being delicately tinted with blue, red, or lilac. In sleep, the long square tail is turned over the back and the great bill rested upon it. The feet are zygodactyl.

Toucans are forest birds and generally to be found on the tops of trees. They feed on berries and fruit, with lizards and and small mammals, or birds, which they tear to pieces before swallowing. They will fling the morsel in the air and catch it with open mouth. They make their nests in holes of trees and lay white eggs. They are easily tamed and make amusing pets. Their cry is as strange as themselves; some croak with heads thrown back, others yelp like a dog; their note of anger or alarm is like a wooden rattle. They are awkward on the ground, hopping in an ungainly fashion. Their flight is somewhat laboured and undulating, the bill thrust forward. There are in all sixty species, all confined to the Neo-Tropical regions.

The Great Toucan (white-breasted)	*Rhamphastos toco .*
Red-beaked Toucan.	,, *erythrorhynchus.*
*†The Kissi-Kissi Toucan	,, *osculans.*
Saffron-breasted	,, *vitellinus.*
†Two-coloured Toucan.	,, *dicolorus.*

†Red-cinctured Toucan	*Pteroglossus aracari.*
*†Letter-billed Toucan	,, *inscriptus.*
†Many-banded Toucan	,, *pluricinctus.*
Green Toucan	,, *viridis.*
†Ear-tufted or Black-breasted Toucan (pepper-eater)	*Selenidera piperivora.*
†Many-coloured Toucan	,, *nattereri.*
†Sea-green Toucan (Whiteley's)	*Aulacorhamphus whiteleyanus.*
†Furrow-billed Toucan	,, *sulcatus.*
†Double ring-necked Toucan	,, *bitorquatus.*

CUCKOOS.

Cuckoos have affinities to Parrots and are placed by some ornithologists in the same order. Outwardly, however, they are very different and agree only in having zygodactyl feet. The beak is generally long and curved, and in the "Old Witch" the maxilla is raised in the form of a keel. The plumage also differs much from parrots, in being of sombre hue, brown, greys, or buffs being the prevailing tints, with sometimes bars or spots of white or black. In all there forty-six genera and some two hundred species, of which about thirty species belong to America. Cuckoos differ from other birds in being promiscuous in their intercourse, polyandry being generally practised, but the habit of the English Cuckoo of laying its eggs in other birds' nests and thus relieving itself of the burden of domestic life, is not common to the order. Most other Cuckoos build their own nests and raise their own progeny. In the case of the "Old Witch," however,one large nest serves the purpose of several females who sit side by side and share in common the duties of incubation. The food of Cuckoos consists of caterpillars and insects generally; some will eat fruit and berries; others lizards, small snakes, and even birds and mice. Their cry is loud and shrill, but none in these regions utter the note that has given the name to the whole family. Some species have striped, hawk-like breasts as also a hawk-like flight, and are in consequence often mobbed by other birds. In this colony the Cuckoo's habit of depositing its eggs in the nests of other birds is taken up by the Lazy-bird, and its affinity, the great Corn Bird, both belonging to the Order "Icteridæ," *q.v.*

Cuckoos—(Colonial). *Cuculidæ.*

Black-billed Cuckoo.	*Coccyzus melanocoryphus.*
Grey-breasted Cuckoo.	,, *americanus.*
,, ,, (lesser) Cuckoo	,, *minor.*
* Cuckoo (Euler's)	,, *euleri.*
Brown ,,	*Piaya cayana.*
Red-billed Cuckoo (black-bellied)	,, *melanogastra.*
Small Brown Cuckoo	,, *minuta*
Red-winged ,, (scale-nosed)	*Neomorphus rufipennis.*
Spotted Cuckoo (or wife-sick bird (large-winged)	*Diplopterus nævius.*
Brown-Headed Cuckoo peacock-like)	*Dromococcyx pavoninus.*
†Keel-billed Purple-black (Gt. Old Witch Bird)	*Crotophaga major.*
Keel-billed. Smaller-black (Old Witch-Bird)	,, *ani.*
†Furrow-billed Cuckoo	,, *sulcirostris.*

WOODPECKERS.

These birds are found all over the world except in Australia, Madagascar, and Egypt. They may be recognised by their large heads, often decorated with a scarlet tuft, their wedge-shaped and powerful beaks, their necks, spiny tails and zygodactyl feet. Browns, greens, yellows, with markings of scarlet and spots or bars of black and white are the prevailing colours. They are rightly called " scansorial " for they ascend the trunks of trees with great agility either using their claws or, if the trunk is slender clipping the trees, as it were, astride. With their powerful beaks they can easily chisel a hole in the hardest wood; and with their highly protrusible, worm-like tongues, which are tipped with a barbed spine, they extract insects and their larvæ from narrow holes or crannies. Their loud and rapid tapping may be heard for a mile. They make their nests in deep holes of trees which they hollow out with great precision and symmetry; here they lay white, glossy, oval eggs. When at work, they rest back upon their hard, spiny tails, and as easily descend as ascend, preserving their upright position. They are shy birds and so not often seen; but their loud note, or derisive laugh, ringing through the forest, when once heard is not easily forgotten. Their flight is swift and undulating. There are fifty genera, including four hundred and forty species of which about half are peculiar to the New World.

WOODPECKERS.—(Colonial). *Picidae.*

†Head-streaked Woodpecker	*Chloronerpes capistratus.*
Yellow-throated Woodpecker	,, *flavigula.*
Red-cheeked Woodpecker	,, *rubiginosus.*
*†Speckled-throated Woodpecker	*Chrysoptilus punctigula.*
†Blood-crowned Woodpecker (Yellow-naped)	*Melanerpes cruentatus.*
†Ruby-fronted Woodpecker (Lesser Black)	,, *rubrifrons.*
Ruddy Woodpecker	*Veniliornis sanguineus.*
*†Sparrow Woodpecker	,, *passerinus.*
†Helmeted Woodpecker (?)	,, *cassini.*
Red-rumped Woodpecker (Kirk's) (?)	,, *kirki.*
Yellow-crested Brown Woodpecker (?)	*Celeus reichenbachi.*
Fine-spotted yellow-brown Woodpecker (?)	,, *elegans.*
Red-cheeked Woodpecker (?)	*Jumana elegans.*
Brown Woodpecker	,, *rufus.*
†Striped Woodpecker (?)	,, *grammatica.*
Brown-breasted Wood-pecker (collared)	*Cerchneipicus torquatus.*
Yellow Woodpecker	*Crocomorphus flavus.*
†Scarlet-headed Woodpecker (red-necked)	*Campo philus rubricollis.*
Black-throated Wood-pecker	,, *melanoleucus.*
Scarlet-crested Wood-pecker (stripe-breasted)	*Ceophloeus lineatus.*
Picumninae—	
Pigmy Woodpecker or Piculet (spotted-bellied)	*Picumnus spilogaster.*
†Pigmy tufted Woodpecker	,, *cirrhatus.*
† ,, scaly ,, (?).	,, *lepidotus.*
Small ,,	,, *minutus.*
†Wavy-striped ,,	,, *undulatus.*

(To be continued).

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Editorial.

ZOO NOTES: The June "Report of Additions to the Menagerie" contains the following breeding successes among the birds:

3 Chestnut-eared Finches *(Taeniopygia castanotis).*
2 Southern White-cheeked Finch-Larks *(Pyrrhulauda smithi).*

- 4 Carolina Ducks *(Lampronessa sponsa)*.
- 2 Diamond Doves *(Geopelia cuneata)*.
- 1 Crested Pigeon *(Ocyphaps lophotes)*.
- 2 Southern Triangular-spotted Pigeons *(Columba phaeonota)*.

The most notable event among the above is the successful rearing of the young finch-larks, as this species has not previously been bred in Great Britain.

Breeeding of Shamahs: In our last issue we published a most interesting article from the pen of Mr. G. E. Low, giving an account of the rearing of the first brood. He further reports the successful rearing of the second brood, two fine young birds being the result—we reproduce herewith a photo showing Mr. Shamah taking food to his two babies—the hen (July 27) is engaged incubating her third clutch (six) of eggs. Truly a prolific pair. We wish our member every success with the third brood. We think it will be of interest if we give an extract from Mr. Low's letter of July 24th.

> "I have two young Shamahs in the second brood, "pretty strong on the wing now, and the hen is now sitting "on five eggs. The four young Shamahs of the first brood "are doing well, and entirely on ordinary insectile mixture."

A Cruise on the S.Y. "Vectis."

By W. Shore Baily.

(Continued from page 146).

At noon we reached another hotel, also on the borders of a lake, and halted for lunch. It was a picturesque place, and an ideal spot for trout fishers, as the lake simply teemed with large fish. I guess that they probably took a lot of catching, as the water was as clear as crystal. I was very much interested here in some large globular nests in a silver birch tree. They must have contained a bushel or more of twigs. They reminded me of the wood-rat nests I used to see in California. I dont know whether Norway possesses any similar animals, but I can hardly think that these could have been built by any bird of my acquaintance. After lunch we continued on our way, sometimes through picturesque canyons, lined with silver birch—quite the commonest tree in this part of

Photo G. E. Low.

Cock Indian Shamah carrying food to second brood.

Norway—and sometimes through wide open valleys, sparsely covered with brush, the probable home of the Ryper, or Willow Grouse. I should have much liked to have met with a covey of these birds, but we saw no traces of them. Just about tea time we arrived at the Stalheim hotel, which was most charmingly situated at the head of the valley of the same name. Immediately below the hotel, the river which flows through the valley we had just traversed leaps over the edge of a cliff in a tremendous fall. From the courtyard of the hotel we saw it meandering down the valley, a thousand feet below us. After having had tea and despatched sundry picture post cards, several of us decided to walk on towards Gadvangen, leaving our stoljaerrés to overtake us. The river now becomes a salmon river, and a good many large fish could be seen at the foot of the fall, which of course they are quite unable to ascend. Our walk down the river was most enjoyable, the scenery being very fine, reminding me in places of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, in the U.S.A. Of new species of birds seen, the Ring Ousel and the Dipper were the most noteworthy. The Scandinavian Dipper is said to differ from the English bird, but this is certainly not apparent when the bird is in flight. After a walk of about five miles our stoljaerrés overtook us. The country here was more thickly populated, and we passed several small farm buildings. The farm-houses are in many cases built over the barn or stable and admittance is obtained by a ladder which gives them a rather curious appearance. We were also much amused by the way the Norwegians make their hay. They prepare a series of rough racks, something like wooden horses used in English nurseries for drying clothes, and on these the hay is placed in layers. This, of course besides clearing the ground for a second crop, keeps the hay off the wet soil. It entails a lot of labour, but this appears to be done by the women and children. We saw very few men about, and conluded that they were either away at the fishing or else in the lumber camps. About 7 o'clock we reached Gadvangen and found the *Vectis* lying out in the fjord. The trip had been a very enjoyable one, but we weren't sorry to get back to a good English dinner again. We had sampled three different Norwegian hotels, and hadn't been at all impressed with their menus. The next day we went on to Mundal, where we visited some fine glaciers. One of these periodically goes through the operation of what is called "calving," and we were rather lucky to see this. A great mass of ice and snow breaks away from the main glacier and tumbles into the abyss. It looks just like a waterfall, when it is falling, and we didn't at first realize what had happened. We now know what an avalanche looks like. In the afternoon we called at Balhomen, a very pretty little place in which a good many English tourists spend the summer. As it was a hot afternoon, the writer and another passenger decided to have a swim. We had to borrow bathing dresses from the hotel, and when the young lady brought them out to us, we found they had been designed for the female figure. She knew no English, and we were equally ignorant of Norwegian, so we had some difficulty in understanding her directions for putting them on. However difficulties were made to be overcome, and we finally managed to get into them, and queer looking objects we looked. Our fellow passengers were very much amused. We dived off the pier, and found the water like ice. Needless to say we didn't stop in very long. It appears that the waters from a glacier empty into the fjord close by. A brisk walk soon restored our circulation. This was quite the most fertile bit of Norway we had yet seen. Well planted orchards lined the roads, amonst which many of our English birds were singing. A family party of Siskins especially attracted my attention, a bird I had never met with in the wild state at home. A few Bramblings were also seen. In the evening we again moved on, reaching Laerdalsoren before nightfall. We spent a day here and went for another long drive into the country, but I have no especial recollections of the trip. The next evening, after steaming all day in the fjords, we reached Naes. On the way we passed through some very fine scenery, and there was something of interest to look at all the time. The ornithologists amongst us were interested in the Black-throated and Red-throated Divers. Several pairs of both species were seen with their young. I have no doubt that these birds breed in some of the land-locked indentations of the fjords through which we were passing. At Naes we put in a whole day, driving up the Romsdal Valley, quite one of the finest valleys in Norway. A magnificent salmon river empties into the fjord here, the fishing rights on which are generally let to Englishmen, who live in the neighbouring farmhouses for the season. In some places it widens out into large pools, where the fishing is done from boats; in others it runs over shallows from which it is possible to fish by wading. Here and there sandy islands appear, some covered with scrub willows, others mere collections of stone and gravel. On one of these I noticed a pair of Sandpipers, which I was unable to indentify. Curiously enough very few Waders were seen on the trip, although we must have skirted many hundreds of miles of coastline. One of the features of this valley are the mountains on each side of the river, which are a favourite resort of Alpine climbers. The Romsdal Horn, although not very high as mountains go, would, I should imagine be quite a difficult climb, and one not to be attempted without guides, ropes, etc. Amongst the numerous common birds noticed in this trip were a pair of Ravens. Several Hooded Crows and Magpies were also seen. In the evening we left Naes for Trondheim, calling at Levanger on the way.

I have no recollection of Levanger, but Trondhiem, at which place we spent a whole day, is quite a nice town. The Cathedral, a sixteenth century edifice is the finest church in Scandinavia and is well worth seeing. In the afternoon we walked out to a waterfall on the magnificent river that debouches at the town. The road on each side was bordered by pines of different kinds, and in one of these we found a nest of hungry young Fieldfares, nearly ready to fly. The next was very like that of the Missel Thrush, a bird we did not notice in Norway. I took one or two photos of the nest but they were not very successful. In the evening we again set out for Narvik, calling at the little island of Torghatten on the way. When landing here we passed two or three broods of Eider Ducks, the first we had seen on the cruise.

(To be Continued).

Correspondence.

BREEDING NOTES—1917.

Sir,—My breeding results have not been very great, as I have only a very few birds, viz: 1 pair each Stanley and Many-colour Parrakeets, and a pair of Zebra Finches and several odd cocks, the war having effectually stopped any chance of fresh acquisitions.

Four very fine young Stanley Parrakeets made their exit from the nest about a month ago, but I found two of them dead one morning last week—. I think they must have been sleeping in the open flight and either owls or cats scared them, because one was injured, though the other showed no signs of outward injury. I did not send them for *post mortem* examination because, in these war times, we seem unable to get reports of same.

My old cock Many-colour Parrakeet died early in the year, and the hen did not take kindly to her new mate; later five eggs were laid and fully incubated, but four were infertile and the other contained a dead chick—from their behaviour I do not anticipate any success with them this season.

Kendal. July 29, 1917. J. SMITH.

BLACKBIRD × THRUSH HYBRIDS.

Sir.—There is at present in the Small Birds' House at the Zoo a Blackbird × Thrush hybrid (or, is it Thrush × Blackbird?), one of those recently bred in an aviary in this country, I believe. I remember that a good deal of controversy arose about the event, and should be obliged if some reader would give me the references to the original account of the breeding and incidentally also answer the question enclosed in the brackets above.

This cross, Blackbird × Thrush, is introduced in the list of Hybrids in Vale's "Hybrid Birds," first published in the nineties, but several times reissued. My copy is the seventh edition (enlarged and revised) dated 1903. Another earlier reference of interest in this connection is the following from Rowley's Ornithological Miscellany, Vol. 1 (1876) p. 65:

> "The Blackbird will pair with the Thrush. A mule of this kind is "mentioned at the Crystal Palace show (*vide* "Times" Feb. 10, 1872.)"

A third and last enquiry: Can anyone who has access to old C. P. Show catalogues say whether this particular bird was Blackbird × Thrush or Thrush × Blackbird, and whether bred in confinement or wild caught?

E. HOPKINSON.

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Photo W. Shore Baily.

Black-tailed Hawfinches attending to young.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Breeding of the Black-tailed Hawfinch.

By W. Shore Baily.

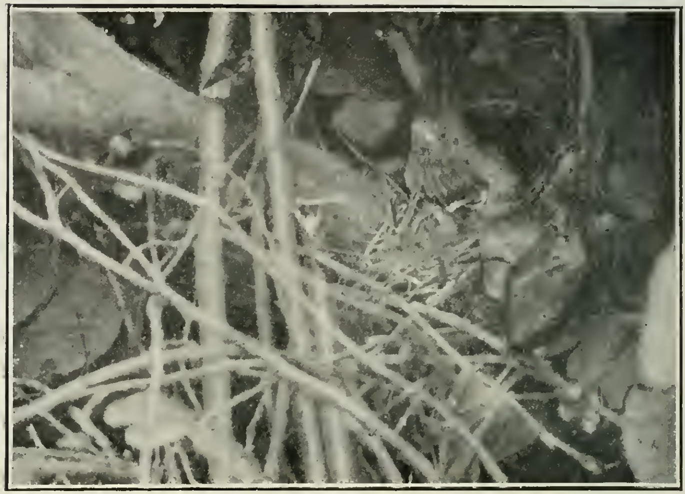
Last year I sent you an account of the nesting of my Black-tailed Hawfinches *(Eophona melanura.)* This season they have again nested, but although this time a young one actually left the nest, I am still unable to lay a claim to an F.B.C. medal. Early in May the hen hawfinch commenced singing, and I frequently heard her answering a thrush whistling in a neighbouring shrubbery. At this time the cock hawfinch took very little interest in his mate, but towards the end of the month he awoke to his responsibilities and took his part in the frequent birdy concerts. Their song is short and monotonous, and cannot be compared wth that of the nearly allied Japanese species. Early in June the Blacktails were frequently to be seen chasing each other around the aviary. By the end of the month they had completed a neat but rather small nest in a dead tree that was thickly covered with â wild creeper. The position was an admirable one, as it was perfectly sheltered from wind and rain, and I had great hopes that this time I should be successful in rearing some young ones. On the 19th the first egg was laid, followed on the succeeding days by three more. These were of the same type as those of our own Buntings, bluish white, streaked and lined with various shades of brown. The hen alone incubated, and on July 2nd. the first young one was hatched, two more hatching out the next day. I had previously removed one egg for my collection. The incubation period was eleven days. Both parents fed the young ones from the crop, using what insects they could catch and mealworms, which were freely supplied. The little ones were covered with grey down, and as they grew this developed into a large tuft on each side of the head, giving them a rather extraordinary appearance. When they were a week old the first disaster occurred; the old birds standing on the edge of the nest to feed the young caused it to collapse and one of the little ones fell out and was devoured by a mouse. Its pin feathers were then just beginning to show. I fixed up the nest, all went well for a day or two, but on going into the aviary on the morning of the 12th, the old birds greeted me with disconsolate peets instead of with their usual cheery song. On examining the nest, I found one of the young ones dead, with its abdomen punctured. It was well nourished and nearly completely feathered, and I am at a loss to know what caused its death. The hen hawfinch did not go near the nest again and did all she could to prevent the cock from doing so, making most violent love to him. However, he resisted all her blandishments and fed the surviving youngster with the greatest assiduity, and at this time I had every expectation of fully rearing it, as it looked very strong and vigorous. Its voice could now be heard at quite a distance. Whilst it had a companion in the nest, it had been silent. On the 15th. it left the nest, but although it could climb very well, it was still unable to fly, its flight feathers not being fully grown. Its colour was dark grey with breast, two wing bars, and tips of flights white. Legs and bill flesh coloured. The cock still fed it almost entirely on mealworms. Although gentles were supplied, these were apparently not much relished. A little hempseed, a food of which the parents are very fond, was also given. It was still fed from the crop, which seems to me rather unusual, as most other young birds of this age would be getting unbroken insects etc. Just at this time my supply of mealworms began to give out, so I was unable to supply them so freely as I could have wished, but luckily there were a good many moths and similar insects about, with which the cock did his best to satisfy the voracious appetite of his offspring. I also noticed the hen catching and feeding the cock with them, thus giving the youngster a double supply. Alas! the old fellow's efforts were in vain. On the evening of the 18th. the young one left its shelter, and selected the highest and most exposed part of the aviary to roost in. I suppose that I ought to have replaced it, but it looked so satisfied with its perch, putting on quite an ' I'm the King of

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Black-tailed Hawfinch Incubating.

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Black-tailed Hawfinch feeding young.



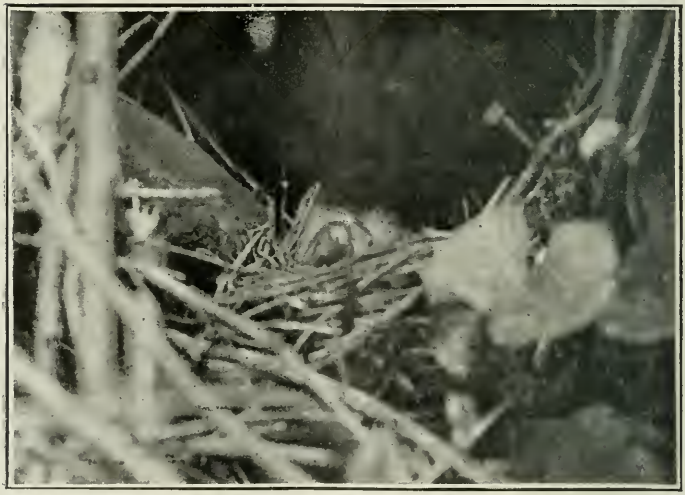


Photo W. Shore Baily.

Young Black-tailed Hawfinches in Nest.

the Castle ' air that I left it. The next morning I found it on the ground, evidently severely suffering from cramp. The cock still continued to feed it, but as it appeared to be getting weaker, I took it indoors and tried to rear it by hand. It only lived four days longer, having contracted a chill. It was then quite a nice little bird, but still retained its extraordinary ear-tufts. I fancy that these must be designed for protective purposes, as it makes the bird when in the nest look extremely hideous. In fact with its large bill, and with these ear-tufts erected it has quite the appearance of a miniature prehistoric monster, and would, I should think, be quite capable of scaring off any ordinary enemy.

This is the third time this pair of birds have nested and failed to rear their young. If they live, I shall try and give them an aviary to themselves next season, and may then meet with more success.

Whydahs.

By Dr. E. Hopkinson, D.S.O.

The Whydahs form a well-defined group of birds, if, as I think we must, the Combasous are included therein. In the Hand List it is true this genus is still isolated away from the Whydahs proper somewhere between the Firefinches and Mannikins, but Shelley and other recent authorities agree in considering the Combasou a Whydah. With this I think that all aviculturists will concur, for in its habits, except that its nests are more or less Sparrow-like,—untidy collections of material in holes in walls and roofs, not woven structures low down amidst the grass,—it agrees with the other Whydahs, while its colour changes are on the same lines, though no lengthening of the tail accompanies the donning of the breeding dress nor is the uniform black set off with red or yellow. In both these points, however, some of the more typical Whydahs follow the Combasou; as regards the tail, in *Urobrachya* there is but little if any elongation of this appendage when the colour change takes place, while as regards the uniform black nuptial plumage, this character is shared by *Coliostruthus concolor*, the wholly black race, variety or sub-species of *C. ardens*, and *Drepanoplectes* too in full colour is also practically all black, as except for its brown flights and wing-coverts there is no other relief to the black.

One of the chief characteristics of the Whydahs is this change at the breeding season from the plain lark-like plumage of the rest of the year to the very varied ornamental plumage of love, a change in which not only the colour of the feathers is involved, but in many genera the shape as well, at any rate as far as the tail is concerned. Not only is this lengthened,—in some genera as a whole, in others only the four central feathers, but various other alterations in the shape of the feathers take place, narrowing, broadening, curving etc. as the case may be.

This colour change occurs also of course in a great many other *Ploceidae*, and is particularly Whydah-like, (except that the tail is unaffected) in the Bishops, *(Pyromelana)*, which, with the allied genus *Quelea*, Shelley unites with the Whydahs and Combasous to form his sub-family *Viduinae*.

The males when in full colour are attended by a regular harem of females, for polygamy is the rule among these birds. To these mates they show off or display in various ways, and as regards some species, regular courting dances and dancing-places are described, of which more will be said later on in the proper place.

These birds, and particularly their breeding in confinement have been so much to the front in the last year or two in the pages of the Magazine, that I think a resumé of our knowledge of the group will be of interest. Although I know some species quite well both at large in their native country and as cage birds at home, I have nothing new to say about them and therefore must draw on previous writings for my material. On the habits of a few species quite a lot has been recorded, but in most there is but little known, of others nothing. At this I do not much wonder, at any rate as regards the birds which inhabit Tropical Africa, for there the breeding and most interesting period is for these and most other birds the rainy season, when wet and insects are the chief characteristics of the country and when most of the " bush " is a mass of lush tick-breeding vegetation almost impassable except by cutting. One sees the birds continually, conspicuous as they are in their breeding dress, but finding the nests is quite a different thing, especially when they are situated in the swamps, as is the case with most of those made by Whydahs.

The best way it seems to me of utilising the available material will be to take the list (that of all the species at present known) in the British Museum Hand List and under each species to give the information most likely to be useful aviculturally, and not to waste time and paper in copying out descriptions of plumage and accounts of habits, except in so far as they " suit my book".

Now that so many Whydahs have joined, or look like joining, the ranks of those which have bred in confinement, descriptions of their nests and eggs are well worth collecting into one place, so that these will form the chief part of what I shall find to say about the different species, and to this will be added references to the literature dealing with these birds, where all that is known about them may be found by seekers after more information. In these references I shall try to give as many as possible to coloured plates, as these are so helpful in identifying any birds one has never seen before. Where I know of plates, the books containing them will head the lists of references. Another matter which with foreign birds is always a source of trouble and confusion is Nomenclature, for, as time goes on, names (both popular and scientific), change like the fashions, so that what is one bird's name to-day may to-morrow have been shifted to another, or one name be shared by two or more birds, although I do not know that this occurs often among the Whydahs; but the opposite is of course a widely spread evil,—that is one bird being burdened (or honoured, if preferred) by a multitude of appellations. As a guide through this maze of names I am heading each account with two lists of the principal names which have been applied to the species under consideration. The first will contain the English names (other than that which heads the article), the quite obsolete ones being distinguished by an asterisk (*) and the others arranged more or less in their order of merit as suitable names. The second will deal with the scientific names; this comes straight out of the British Museum Catalogue (vol. xiii.), from the synonymies of which I have tried to skim the cream, supplementing it where necessary from more recent sources, that is the other authorities I quote.

The names in the first List have been collected from time to time for a good many years from many sources.

While on this subject a few words on the name "Whydah" itself will not be out of place. This appears to be the most generally used and the best name for these birds, though "Widow", "Widow-bird" runs it a good second. Professor Newton in the 'Dictionary of Birds' supported (p.1030) the use of the latter name, as the earliest, having been introduced in 1745 by Edwards, who wrote (I quote from the Dictionary) that "the Portuguese call this bird the Widow from its colour and long train". Whydah" on the other hand is a name of Latham's, first used in 1783 (Sh.iv.13). In spite however of "Widow's" priority, I prefer "Whydah", not only because it has the majority of modern supporters behind it, but also for its African origin and sound, which seem to fit the birds so much better than does the rival name.

The following is a list of the chief modern works in which the Whydahs are dealt with and to which I shall so continually be referring, as too I hope my readers will also. After each I give in brackets the abbreviation used in my references.

SHELLEY'S *Birds of Africa*. vol. iv. 1905. (Sh.).—Deals with all Whydahs.

STARK AND SCLATER'S *Birds of South Africa*. vol. i. 1900.—The South African Species.

BUTLER'S *Foreign Finches in Captivity. 1894* (Butler. FF.).—Six of the best known as cage birds, with life like coloured plates.

BUTLER'S *Foreign Birds for Cage and Aviary*. part. i. 1906 circa. (Butler).—All known as cage birds.

BRITISH MUSEUM CATALOGUE. vol. xiii. 1890. (BM. Cat. or CAT.)

BRITISH MUSEUM HAND LIST. vol. v. 1909. (H.L.v). The list of species here is the one I use, and from it I also take the habitats of the different species.

The abbreviations, A.M. and B.N., I need hardly say, refer to the *Avicultural Magazine* and BIRD NOTES respectively, and *Ibis* needs neither abbreviation or explanation.

Other older books to which references appear are Gedney's *Foreign Cage Birds*,—the Foreigners by Wiener—(Cassell), Swainson's *Birds of West Africa* (Sw.) and the two German works of Russ *(Die Fremdländischen Stubenvögel. vol. i.)* and Reichenbach *(Die Singvögel)*, the latter valuable for its numerous and in most cases good coloured figures, the former the well-known compendium of all things avicultural. These appear as (Russ) and (Singv.)

Another authority, a recent one, is also German, but it I have not seen and therefore give no references. This is Reichenow's *Die Vögel Africas*, (1901-05).

(To be continued).

Notes from an Amateur in Ceylon.

By Mrs. W. G. Dickinson.

I wonder if a few notes on our aviary and wild Ceylon bird neighbours would be of any interest?

The climate we live in is the damp, low country, with heavy rainfall at intervals, and occasional spells of dry heat, the usual temperature in the bungalow being from about 78° to 82°. This is evidently very trying to birds from dryer regions, although Indian and other Eastern birds seem to do very well.

I collected one year about forty birds, principally Munias, Java Sparrows, Ceylon Bulbuls and a few other Indian birds, the most "distinguished" of which, to my mind, were two beautiful birds called "Nepally Shamas" by the Indian bird seller. They were evidently Shamas, but with a shorter tail, with no white on them, and a wide open crest, only raised when they were excited or pleased, not very pointed. Their handsome colouring of rich chestnut and shining black was very striking. I also had a nondescript kind of bird, evidently some kind of Babbler: a most amusing tame little chap, with faintly pencilled feathers of a slaty general colour, and a handsome and tame thrush, also of a grey-blue tone, with exquisitely pencilled feathers. He and one Shama came to sad ends during my enforced absence, but the other Shama and Bansee, the Babbler, were my great delight for over two years, when a careless cooly gave them a chance to escape, and alas! I was not at home to recapture them, which I think would have been easy, as they were so tame.

The Australian Grassfinches I was able to bring back here did not do well, alas! The Crimson Finches died on arrival; one Bicheno's Finch pined for its mate, who escaped on the journey; my Gouldians, after beginning to nest, gradually succumbed to the damp, their end hastened, I fear, by the impossibility of procuring millet sprays. The Long-tailed Grassfinches did best, living for about two years, but without breeding.

I fear the aviary is too small for the mixed crowd who inhabit it, being only about 12ft. by 6, comprising a shelter and high open flight, with a fountain-bath, and shrubs in it. My principal breeding successes are, alas! only with the duller types of birds, such as *Munia malacca*, Bengalee and Java Sparrows; of the latter an old white hen who was given me when at least four years old, mated with a young grey cock, rearing successfully several broods, she dying at the ripe age of eight years. A little light-pied Bengalee hen, has reared several broods, having for her mate a Spice Finch *(Munia punctulata)*, curiously enough everyone of her children, and also the white Java's are of the duller colouring of their respective fathers, showing no white. This Bengalee hen is very ridiculous when "broody," hastening to get her bath and feeding over, suggesting an hysterical moth. I am very disappointed that so far the Pekin Robins, Red-vented Bulbuls and Weavers (these being Bayas, Madagascar cock and Napoleon hen) have never bred. These common Bulbuls are the greatest friends with all their wild brethren who court them, or have furious battles through the wires, and make their own nests within a few yards.

The Cingalese consider these birds as select as Mynas because they talk so well; I was rather astonished to find this is true, although my own do not talk, having too many other interests I suppose.

My two handsome Red-whiskered Bulbuls do not breed, and cannot be a pair I fear; I hope to get some more from a friend in the Nilgiris Hills. I had a pair of white Eye-browed Bulbuls *(Pycnonotus luteolus)*, olive green birds with a peculiar loud cry; they proved to be most truculent inhabitants of an aviary, I was quite glad when one died, as the solitary one is more subdued.

It seems impossible to procure or catch the many really lovely birds which one often sees, such as Malabar Fruit-Suckers, Orange Minivets, Paradise Flycatchers, Black-capped Green-Bulbuls and other gems; it makes one rather long to have some of them, although being so beautiful in their wild state, one would be grieved if captivity harmed or killed them.

I have been brought at various times many kinds of birds, of which some were Sunbirds, young Red Woodpeckers and a family of Golden Orioles; but I have successfully kept but few, many being temporarily injured, or unable to learn to feed in captivity, in spite of all I could do—so I release most of them. I do not even know the family of the glorious Orange Minivet, large flocks of whom often visit us, the flame and black of the larger and the flame and slaty-grey of the smaller species, is exquisite; they are grace impersonified, and tame fearless birds to boot, who take good care of our fruit and flowering trees. They are called locally Sultan Birds as one cock usually is seen with two or more hens—possibly his latest family. No amount of offered rewards can urge the natives to find me where they breed, locally, so I fancy it must be either in higher altitudes where one often sees them too, or in other countries, as they are migratory. The hen's colouring is bright canary-yellow in place of the orange of the cock and I sometimes see both sexes, when out of colour, an undetermined washy grey in the brightly coloured parts.

The Paradise Flycatcher is a most interesting and very lovely bird. The young cocks and the hens are rich light chestnut, all but a white shirt front, with shining black head and neck to the shoulders. The crest is erect and pointed; at about two years the cocks grow long chestnut tail feathers about ten or twelve inches in length, and in their fourth year their whole plumage, long tail and all, becomes snowy white except the black head and cape. They are a beautiful sight in flight in the open with their fluttering long tails. Although the bird is quite plentiful I cannot find its nest locally either.

We are constantly brought young Barbets to rear by hand; they really are most amusng birds, although the Common Green Barbet is very ugly. The smaller species, called locally Painted Barbet, is much neater, and a nice pet, their colouring being beautiful. They are very noisy in the house, and dirty too, but become very tame and friendly in an assertive sort of way—when you approach they begin their loud strident call, which continues for about two minutes, during which time their windpipe expands into a sort of bubble full of air, which shows quite bare through the feathers. I found them the most frail birds for their size and strong appearance, they constantly broke limbs, tore their mandibles, and came through terrible experiences, so I have given up keeping them till I can make a large aviary for bigger birds; nevertheless they are amusing and very friendly—if they had not this habit of "going bad" as my friends call it. They are plentiful locally, eating quantities of berries and fruit.

About six weeks ago a beautiful Golden Oriole was brought to me, who seemed very dazed and poorly, her captors saying they could bring two young like her. I asked them to bring these younsters. On their arrival, some time after, the Oriole proved to be their mother, who faithfully began feeding them at once. Shortly after, the father was brought to me, and I had great hopes of successfully keeping this beautiful family, as they are apparently very unexcitable birds, and started feeding freely at once. The cock bird fed his mate in the most touching way, and the hen continually fed the young, although to my sorrow I found her back had been injured and I hear she was kept too long without food.

The second day she died, after having fed her babies to within five minutes of her death, and within another twelve hours the cock died too. I wish now I had released him. I do not know if he pined, or if I was giving unsuitable food (not enough berries, and too much insect food). He was absolutely unable to grasp the idea of feeding the young ones, a curious thing, as he had been so unfailing in feeding his mate. The poor little things clamoured round him, much to his nervous discomfort.

I am glad to say we have reared these little orphans, so far *most* successfully; principally on fruit, peameal, white ants and their eggs. They are now beautiful birds, rapidly attaining full plumage, but still flecked with brown and lacking the brilliant ruby eyes of the adults, and are delightfully tame. When they first came they could fly a little, but must have been quite young, being half their full size, and with very young birds' beaks, and bare heads and beaks; they were already yellow with dark wings, but mottled all over the yellow areas with brown. At that early age they often sang a note or two. They did not feed themselves for nearly a month after I got them. I shall venture to put them in a very small birds' aviary, and watch results, soon. They have no fear of being handled, and their parents, when first caught, showed no actual fear of people only dazed distress at captivity, hopping about, but never flopping against the bars. The Cingalese believe these birds to belong to a very high caste, and say they will not thrive in the house of a low caste man, unless he makes them eat food such as pork, which ' Breaks their Caste '—perhaps my pair needed some such treatment.

Last week I was given a young black bird with an astonishing big " gape." I took him for a nightjar at first, but now believe him to be a young Kowal, or Black Cuckoo. He appears willing to live on any diet, and I hope to rear him to maturity: he is a most confiding and absurd bird; nearly as big as a young jackdaw. I will try to sketch or photo him later. He is shiny black with buff flecks at intervals on tip of wing feathers his peculiarities being thick grey-black feet, short legs, and huge ' gape,' and a little turn down end to his bill.

Notes of the Season.

By the Marquis of Tavistock.

The severe winter passed with the loss of only a single bird and that of no value to speak of. But from March onward I have a great run of ill-luck, the majority of deaths occurring during perfect weather.

First I lost three acclimatized White-browed Amazons *(Chrysotis albifrons)* from lung trouble: then a Guiana Parrotlet from ovary disease. I also lost a consignment of Red Shining Uvean Parrakeets, these were all unacclimatised birds, but I never expected to lose the lot in spite of every care.

Septicæmia also carried off two Yellow-bellied Parrakeets *(Platycercus flaviventris)*—this mysterious disease makes it almost impossible to keep certain parrakeets in the Isle of Wight—notably Many-colours, Blue Bonnets, and apparently Yellow-bellies. It appears to be non-infectious and generally ends fatally after a few hours' or a few days' of painful illness, marked by convulsions. Heat hastens the patient's end, but the disease can occur in winter as well as in summer, and there seems no prevention or cure.

My New-Zealand Parrakeets *(Cyanorhamphus novaezealandiae)* quarrelled badly, although they were brother and sister, and had never been separated. I therefore parted them and turned the hen into an aviary with my old cock. A fortnight later he murdered her and some weeks afterwards the second cock died—apparently from pure cussedness, as nothing could be found the matter with him. About the same time a hen Many-colour *(Psephotus multicolor)* was killed by her Red-rump *(Psephotus haematonotus)* mate, and a cock Bourke's *(Neophema bourkei)* died of injuries apparently inflicted by flying against the wire netting.*

Four pairs of Grass Parrakeets were turned out on the eve of a severe thunderstorm, which so terrified them that two killed themselves during the night in the same way as the Bourke's. Bitter experience has taught me that it is unsafe to keep any parrakeet of the genus *Neophema* in an aviary unprotected with a lining of string netting,* to prevent suicide.

As a palliative to the above tale of woe I have a few breeding successes to recount and some failures.

HOODED PARRAKEETS *(Psephotus dissimilis)*. As my pairs will persist in sticking to Australian seasons, generally dying egg-bound in October, and moulting all the spring and summer, I put them in a warm indoor flight at the end of September 1916. One hen had a weak leg and I thought her useless, but as not infrequently happens with a crippled bird, she proved better than I anticipated, laying and incubating a full clutch of eggs, which unhappily proved infertile. The other hen got no further than inspecting the nest-box.

GUIANA PARROTLETS *(Psittacula guianensis)*. A pair of this species reared three young, in a cage, up to the age of three weeks and then murdered the lot. A second nest proved a failure. This species is now nesting again.

A hen Blue-faced Lorikeet *(T. haematodus)* paired to a Swainson's *(Trichoglossus swainsoni)* laid two eggs, both of which were infertile.

Having learned by experience that it is almost useless to expect young parrakeets unless the male birds, at any rate, have had abundance of flying exercise during the whole of the winter previous to the breeding season, I kept the cocks intended for the Indian and African lutino Ring-necks, and the lutino Blossom-head out of doors in a large flight; the hens occupying small indoor flights. In March the cock Indian Ring-neck *(Palaeornis torquata)* gave evidence of being in breeding condition by trying to kill his African companion, who was only rescued in the nick of time. The Indian Ring-necks, after being paired up, nested and the hen produced, in the place of five infertile eggs in 1916, seven fertile eggs, all of which had chicks dead in the shell. The African Ring-necks seemed on good terms, but did not even enter their nest-box. The hen Blossom-head *(P. cyanocephala)*, who in 1916 laid three eggs but refused to pair, this season varied her conduct by pairing but refusing to lay.

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* A thick screen of branches would be better, as there would be considerable danger of the birds getting entangled in the string netting.—ED.

Having failed for three years to get anything but infertile eggs or weak embryos from Stanley *(P. icterotis)* Barraband's *(Polytelis barrabandi)* and Pileated Parrakeets *(Porphyrocephalus spurius)* which had been caged during the winter, I decided last autumn to risk the weather and leave the whole lot out, as well as a newly acquired pair of Queen Alexandras *(Spathopterus alexandrae)*. All came through successfully, and three pairs of Stanleys, the Pileated, and two of the four pairs of Barrabands' went to nest as usual, and not as usual all hatched out something. The Stanleys reared ten young birds between them without loss. The Pileateds hatched out two fine chicks from four eggs, but unluckily lost both when half grown, apparently through feeding them on some indigestible food—I fear strawberries. One young Barraband's was hatched out by each pair. One was reared, but the other was squashed by its parents, who were clumsy and very wild.

A pair of Red-rumps *(P. haematonotus)* reared four young, but my last pair of Bourke's got no further than inspecting the nest box.

Three pairs of Blue-winged Grass Parrakeets *(Neophema venusta)*—or more correctly speaking a cock Rock Grass Parrakeet, *(N. petrophila)* and two cocks and three hen Blue-wings all went to nest. The hen who paired with the Rock had her eggs broken by her lady companion and therefore decided that it was ' up ' to the latter to make reparation by allowing her to share her own nest—an arrangement which for a time worked amicably, though in the end she laid again in her own box. I fear, however, that there is not likely to be any result, as all previous clutches have been infertile, owing, no doubt, to the necessity of caging these rather delicate birds during the cold weather, and so impairing the fertility of the cocks.*

A hen Banksian Cockatoo *(Calyptorhynchus banksii)* paired to a cock Western Black Cockatoo *(C. stellatus)* laid one or two eggs last year, which failed to hatch. A pair of *C. stellatus* are now feeding each other and destroying many barrels, but do not show any immediate intention of settling down to business. The great difficulty with black cockatoos is to prevent the males becoming too fond of their owners and ignoring their mates. Even when they start by being timid and are never encouraged or petted, they usually, if young, begin to show a marked preference for human society in a year or two. Old birds, however, are almost untameable, but they are difficult to come by, as they are seldom taken alive and still more seldom survive capture.

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Nesting Notes, 1917.

By Herbert E. Bright.

A few notes of the recent doings of my birds may prove of some little interest and encouragement to my fellow members.

On my return here (Aug. 7) I found the following fully reared and others nesting, etc.

Diamond Sparrows *(Steganopleura guttata).* Two broods were on the wing; four in the first brood, the second brood an unknown quantity as they are not long out of the nest and keep to cover. The first brood moulted very quickly and make a pretty picture on the small lawn in the aviary—six to eight may be seen feeding at one time with other species, and they are amiable—in a smaller place I have found their pugnacity a perfect nuisance.

Pope Cardinals *(Paroaria larvata).* There are three fine young birds on the wing, the outcome of two nests.

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* Since writing the above one pair of Blue-winged Parrakeets have hatched young.

Bicheno's Finches *(Stictoptera bichenovi)*. There are a few young on the wing, but I am not sure of their number; they are only just out of the nest and it is hard to find them together.

Hybrids. A hybrid (reared here last season) Greenfinch × Himalayan Siskin cock, mated to a Greenfinch hen, have nested and fully reared two young hybrids; these are a pair, the hen of which is much the same as an English greenfinch hen, but the cock shows considerably more colour.

A Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *(Munia castaneithorax)* paired with a hen Silverbill *(Aidemosyne cantans)* has fully reared four young hybrids—at present they resemble their mother, except for their black beaks. The parent birds are incubating another clutch.

A Magpie Mannikin *(Amauresthes fringilloides)* mated with a hen Silverbill have nested, with the result that several young left the nest, but owing to the interposition of wet weather only one bird has been fully reared, but it is a very strong youngster. The old birds are sitting again.

Diamond Dove *(Geopelia cuneata)*. There are two young of this exquisite species disporting themselves about the aviary. Later (Aug.24). Two more of this species are on the wing.

Violet Dove *(Leptoptila jamaicensis)*. Two young of this species are also on the wing and fending for themselves.

Talpacoti Dove *(Chamaepelia talpacoti)*. Two more young (first brood still living) are on the wing.

Cape (Masked) Dove *(Oena capensis)*. One young bird of this species was hatched out, but the parent birds failed to rear it.

Himalayan Bullfinch *(Pyrrhula erythrocephala)*. These are unsatisfactory nesters, they are so easily disturbed, and though on several occasions during the past two seasons they have caused me to hope that they would successfully rear young, I have been disappointed—they are so easily disturbed. This season they have again built a nest, but allowed themselves to be driven off by two Parson Finches, and so far they have not constructed another nest. Later (Aug. 24). A second nest has been built, a very good one, but no eggs have been laid at present.

HIMALAYAN GOLDFINCHES *(Carduelis indica)*. My two pairs are now moulting, so I supose they are not likely to go to nest this season. Aug. 24. One pair have built a nest in the shelter-shed and rather look like business.

GREEN FRUIT-PIGEON *(Sphenocercus sphenurus)*. These look in grand condition, but the cock is lethargic; the hen is anxious to nest, but the cock will not respond, though I have seen them mating. Later (Aug. 24). The cock has become more active, now all but through the moult, so there may be a chance of them nesting this season, late as it is.

COCKATEEL *(Calopsittacus novae-hollandiae)* Three young of this well known but pretty crested parrakeet are fully reared, and their parents are nesting again. Later (Aug. 24), the second brood are fairly numerous judging by the noise they make calling for food.

PEACH-FACED LOVEBIRD *(Agapornis roseicollis)*. These have nested and have young in the nest, but I do not know how many.

LONG-TAILED GRASSFINCH *(Poephila acuticauda)*. At present I have only noticed two young birds about, but I think there are more.

GOULDIAN FINCHES *(Poephila gouldiae)*. One pair are incubating a clutch of eggs, and two other pairs are building. Later (Aug. 24). All three pairs sitting I think, certainly two pairs are. They are all in the same aviary, there was some squabbling at first, but they soon chose their respective nests and settled down.

WHITE-EYEBROWED SONG-SPARROW* *(Zonotrichia leucophrys)*. These nested with the result that one young bird made its exit from the nest, and was nearly fending for itself when it suddenly disappeared, so, I fear, it lies dead amid the herbage of the aviary.

MALABAR STARLINGS *(Poliopsar malabarica)*. For some mysterious reason my pair, though in faultless condition, have not nested.

Peaceful and Plumed Ground Doves, also Brush Bronze-wing, and Geoffrey's Pigeons have all nested and hatched out, but from one cause or another have failed to rear any young—possibly adverse weather at the critical moment is the most probable cause.

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* Synonym: White-crowned Song-Sparrows.

Blue Jays *(Cyanocitta cristata)*. My pair of this grand species, after building two nests, have moulted and apparently given up all thoughts of nesting.

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Editorial.

Zoo Notes.—During a recent visit to the bird section of the Menagerie we noticed many interesting birds in the Small Birds' House, all in excellent condition. The Summer Aviary has been much improved, and has now been made into one huge natural enclosure, with a wire netting tunnel through the midst of it—this enables the visiting public to get a better view of the birds and under fairly natural conditions—with a small party of members and the keeper we wandered through it, and noted many interesting nests and young birds. We did not make a list, but these included young Orange Weavers, Pileated Song-Sparrows, several species of Doves and Pigeons—a second nest of Orange Weavers contained eggs and a young chick; also a nest of the Lesser Double-collared Sunbird containing eggs—we hope to refer more fully to some of these interesting episodes in a later issue. In the Parrot House, in one of the large cages, two fine hybrids have been reared, as the result of the mating of Red-naped and Blue Mountain (Swainson's) Lorikeets. The young birds show distinctly in their plumage a pleasing combination of both parents. Hybrids from such closely allied species should be fertile. But few game birds and water-fowl have been reared this season owing to the food regulations.

Yellow-rumped Tanagers.—We are informed that our member Mr. E. J. Brook has had young of this fine species (part of the Ecuador consignment) successfully reared in his aviaries, and we heartily congratulate him upon a notable success; and hope he will send details for publication in our journal.

Correspondence.

BREEDING SONG THRUSH × BLACKBIRD HYBRIDS.

Sir.—In reply to the enquiry in the August issue of Bird Notes signed E. Hopkinson, I have pleasure in forwarding the first account of breeding hybrids between the Song Thrush and Blackbird. The account is from *Cage Birds* June 12th 1915, and is by the breeder, Mr. T. H. Anderson, Darvel, Ayr. The male parent of the hybrids was a Song Thrush, and the female a Blackbird.

Later in the year, Mr. Anderson sent one of these hybrids to the offices of *Cage Birds* for examination with the view of its being granted the medal offered by that journal for the breeding of rare hybrids. After careful examination, it was decided that the bird was bred as claimed, and the medal was awarded.

In due course one of these hybrids was exhibited in hybrid classes at various shows, and it was awarded prizes by some judges and disqualified by others as not being a genuine hybrid. Then, at the joint show held in the Autumn of 1915 at the Holborn Hall, Mr. Anderson exhibited, under Mr John Robson of London as judge, all three of these hybrids, but the judge refused to accept them and gave his opinion that they were nothing else but slightly melanistic Thrushes.

In the next season, 1916, Mr. Anderson again succeeded in breeding young from the same two birds, and this time the young birds showed more of the Blackbird side of their parentage. He sent one of these hybrids to a meeting of the British Bird and Mule Club Committee and claimed the Gold Medal of the Society. The Blackbird parentage of this bird was shewn so distinctly that the medal was awarded.

Subsequently, after having been exhibited at a show, the bird died on the way home. The body was sent to the Offices of *Cage Birds*, and by us was forwarded, on behalf of Mr. G. Crabb, the President of the London and Provincial O.S., to the Taxidermist with a view to its being set up as a specimen and added to the Society's collection of stuffed specimens.

As will be seen in the account enclosed, taken from *Cage Birds* March 10th, 1917, this preserved specimen was sent to a scientific meeting of the Zoological Society and was accepted by them as being a true hybrid. Another one from the same nest was purchased by Lord Rothschild and deposited at the London Zoo, and this is the bird mentioned by your correspondent.

Considerable discussion took place in the columns of *Cage Birds* and elsewhere as to the authenticity of the parentage of the hybrids of 1915, and throughout that discussion we upheld our decision that the hybrids were as represented. It was of course a matter of sincere gratification to us when Mr. Anderson was able to repeat his success and to breed young birds about the parentage of which there could be no possible doubt.

HENRY J. FULLJAMES.

Editor, *Cage Birds*.

[We are greatly obliged to the Editor of *Cage Birds* for kindly supplying the above and following information in response to Dr. Hopkinson's query, and tender our best thanks.—Editor, Bird Notes].

From *Cage Birds* 10-iii-1917.

" At a scientific meeting of the Zoological Society, held on February 6th, Mr. Gerrard exhibited, on behalf of Mr. G. Crabb, a mounted specimen of a Hybrid between a Song Thrush and a Blackbird. The bird is one of those bred last summer by Mr. Anderson, of Darvel, from parents which he said had also reared a nest of three in the previous season.

This year the young birds showed their Blackbird parentage more distinctly than those of last year, and there could be no doubt of their being as claimed, namely, Hybrids between a Song Thrush and a Blackbird. This one arrived home dead after a show, and Mr. Anderson kindly sent us the body with a view to its being preserved and added to the collection of prize winners belonging to the London and Provincial O.S.

The collection of stuffed specimens to which this bird forms so interesting an addition will shortly be deposited at the People's Palace, Mile End Road, where it will be on view. The Palace is within a short walk from Stepney Green station, and the motor omnibuses from the Mansion House pass the doors.

The photo reproduced is by Mr. D. Seth-Smith, of the Zoological Society, who sent a copy also to " The Field," with a letter of which the following is an extract. The note of the Editor of " The Field " is also appended : —

> "The bird exhibited, and of which a photograph is herewith reproduced, proved by dissection to be a male. Both in plumage and measurements it corresponds more closely with the Song Thrush than the Blackbird, and it might, in fact, be mistaken for a dark variety of the former species. Its general colour, however, is of a much darker hue than that of the Thrush. The ear-coverts are very dark brown, and the buffish-white eye stripe characteristic of that bird is absent. The chin, which in the Thrush is generally devoid of spots, is in this bird spotted. The throat, breast, and flanks are spotted like those of a Thrush, but on a darker ground. The upper mandible is black, the lower blackish at the tip and yellow at the base, and the legs and feet are intermediate in colour between those of the two parent species.

I am not sure whether there are any properly authenticated records of wild Hybrids of these two species, but it is evident from the appearance of this captive bird that such Hybrids might be easily overlooked; that is, if the male were the Song Thrush. It would be interesting to see the reverse cross, i.e., from a male Blackbird and female Song Thrush, which might be much more like the Blackbird."

D. SETH-SMITH.

[The interbreeding of Thrush and Blackbird has been frequently reported, although not always on such good evidence as in the present case. The earliest of such records as we have noted may be found in Loudon's *Magazine of Natural History* for 1834. Macgillivray has alluded to it in his article on the Thrush, and Newton in the first volume of Yarrell's *British Birds* (page 282) states that the Blackbird will breed with the Song Thrush, and in one case on record (i.e., Loudon's) Hybrids were produced from such a union in two successive years. In Harting's *Handbook of British Birds* (second edition, p. 39), after quoting Loudon and Macgillivray, several references are given to such Hybrids reported in the *Zoologist* (1883, p.123; 1884, p. 140; 1892, p. 270; 1895, p. 233), and *Transactions of the Norfolk Naturalist Society* (vol. iii, p. 588]."

From *Cage Birds* 12-vi-1915.

"As promised in my letter in *Cage Birds* of May 29, I will now try to give an account of my experience with my birds, and especially with the breeding and rearing of the Song Thrush-Blackbird Hybrids.

It is now about nine years since I began keeping cage birds, and while I am by no means an authority, perhaps my experience may encourage others in the Fancy. I have been fairly successful in my attempts, though I have never done much at showing, unless at our club shows, where I have been able to secure some points at times.

My first attempt was with two pairs of common Canaries, from which I had two or three young. This was not much, yet even such a small success encouraged me, and gradually my aspirations grew. I then tried a few prize-bred Borders with fairly good results, but later Norwich Canaries claimed my attention and favour. I have to thank my friend Mr. Jas. Brown for introducing me to Norwich, which were his favourites, too, in the old days, when he did a good bit of winning in many parts of Scotland. At present I have about a dozen hens breeding, and my first young ones are just getting on the sticks.

About seven years ago I got built a good sized garden aviary, of which I will try and send you a photograph later. In this I have gradually got together a nice collection of Britishers, with a few hardy foreigners to give colour and variety. Some people say they will not do together, but I have never had any trouble with them so far.

My aviary is composed of three sections. The first is quite enclosed, and in it my Norwich Canaries are kept in box cages which can be made into long flight cages by drawing the movable partitions. This part is 11ft. by 9ft. The second section is enclosed on three sides and roof with a net wire front, and measures 11ft. by 5ft. At one end of this there is a large flight where I can keep Hybrid pairs for breeding, and I find they do well. This flight will be about 5ft. by 4ft., by 5ft. high. The third section is quite open, except a little bit of roof covering about 5ft. or so, and this open flight, in which I have a lot of dead trees and shurbs (because the birds won't let live ones grow), is 11ft. by 15ft.

It is in the latter section that I keep most of my Britishers, including the Thrush and Blackbird which have bred and reared the Hybirds this year. In this there is a Thrush that has moulted seven times,and he is as fresh to-day, and singing as a young one. Last summer I got another young Thrush which I took to be a hen and showed as such at our club shows. However, as the season advanced and the spring weather came on this young bird began to sing. This was quite a disappointment to me, for I thought I had got a mate for the old one, and expected to breed some young from them; I had no thought that there were better than young Song Thrushes to come.

About the middle of April the Blackbird hen, which has been in the aviary for three years, began to build her nest in her usual way, laid three eggs and began to sit. Not expecting anything but the usual empty eggs, I merely took note of the date on the register, and paid little more attention, and so you may understand my surprise and pleasure to find two newly-hatched chicks in the nest on the morning of the fourteenth day after. I soon procured a lot of small earthworms which I put in a pan with some soil in it, and was rewarded by seeing the mother bird get down almost at once and begin feeding the young.

This was on May 3, and from then until now, June 1, it has been a constant hunt for earthworms and slugs to keep these hungry youngsters going. On May 16 they left the nest, and the same day the Blackbird began making up the nest again. In two days she had it plastered and lined, and laid her first egg again on the 20th.

This time she has laid four eggs, and if fertile they should hatch out by the end of this week I think. On May 20 the young were showing an attempt to pick at food, and on the 22nd could kill and swallow small earthworms. The hen still kept feeding them, and even up till May 31 I saw her feeding. She has been a very busy bird.

Regarding feeding the young, the mother bird has done that entirely herself. We always kept a supply of worms and slugs in the pan, and it was no easy task during such dry weather; then we had soft bread always handy, and lastly, oatmeal made into a paste with water, sometimes mixing a little finely chopped raw meat with it. This was all she got except whatever she could pick up in the aviary herself. I noticed she was very fond of the oatmeal paste to feed them with after they were up a bit.

I trust this may encourage others to try for this or other rare crosses, for we never know when success may come our way

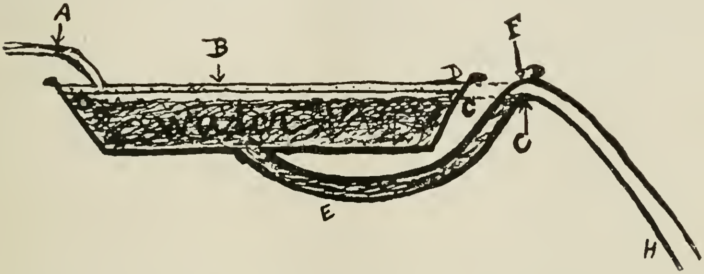
I find Hybrid breeding very interesting, and, though attended by many disappointments, I have found it very encouraging. In the last three years I have been able to breed the following: two Linnet-Bullies, two Redpoll-Goldfinches, two Linnet-Greenies, and one Redpoll-Greenie, all of which, except the Redpoll-Goldies, were successfully reared.

In closing I should like to thank the Editor of *Cage Birds* for his kind letters of encouragement, and wish *Cage Birds* the success it so well deserves."—T. H. ANDERSON, Darvel.

A DEVICE FOR CONTINUOUS SUPPLY OF FRESH WATER.

Sir.—As a constant supply of fresh water is so important for the health of the occupants of our aviaries, I think that a description of an arrangement I have made in my small aviary may be of possible interest to some of my fellow members, as the contrivance attains the desired object with a minimum of trouble.

My very rough sketch shows a vertical section of the water-trough with the inlet and outlet pipes as follows:



A. Inlet Pipe. The flow of water is regulated by a tap outside the aviary.

B. Perforated pipe across the middle of top of the trough. As the perforations represent less than the section of the inlet pipe, the water comes through them with a greater pressure and gets well sprayed all over the trough and its contents get properly stirred up.

E. Outlet Pipe. Bent as shown in sketch, so that the top of the bend should be a little lower than the top of the trough; this level (D) prevents the latter overflowing when the pressure is turned full on.

C. Is the level corresponding to the lower part of the bend of the outlet pipe. When the water is allowed to trickle slowly through pipes A and B it will overflow slowly also, and the level of the water in the trough will keep at the level of the said point C, while being constantly renewed.

H. The continuation of the outlet pipe must be brought, say a couple of feet below the level of the trough. When the water is allowed to flow through A and B fast so that it should rise to level D, the air is driven out of the bend, pipe H acts as a syphon and the whole trough empties. It will continue working through till the tap is closed; if the tap is set at a certain point—which experience quickly shows—the trough will automatically fill and empty itself continuously.

F. At this point a small pin hole is made in the lead exhaust pipe: its function is to ensure the air being driven out and the syphon acting, and also to help the continuous filling and emptying. If it gets choked, the syphon, once started, is apt to continue even with very little dripping into the trough, too little water to make the syphon act if the trough is already at level C.

Liverpool, August 20, 1917, P. J. CALVOCORESSI.

A COCKATOO HYBRID.

SIR.—I am much thrilled at the appearance of the hybrid I told you had been hatched out in the aviary.

It came out of the hole in the roof, where the parent birds made the nest, yesterday (August 13th). The parent birds were a cock Roseate and a hen Lesser Lemon-crested Cockatoo.

The young bird is fully fledged, and is a lovely pearl-grey all over the back and wings; the crest is not round like its father's, but is more horse-shoed in shape when erected, as the bird seems very fond of doing. The inner part of the crest is a buff-yellowy-pink shade, and this colour is repeated on the throat, a round patch on the cheeks, and a band across the chest.

I think the bird will develope a deeper colour in time, as all the colour shades are very pale as yet.

The bird is quite unlike anything I have ever seen at all in parrots before. It is very tame and does not mind one going close to it.

If further particulars are required I shall be pleased to supply all details I have noted.

Hartwell House, Aylesbury. August 14, 1917. (Mrs.) MABEL LEE.

[Mrs. Lee will be entitled to a medal for breeding this hybrid if she will send in a full detailed account of this success. We congratulate her thereupon.—ED.]

THE BREEDING OF SHAMAHS.

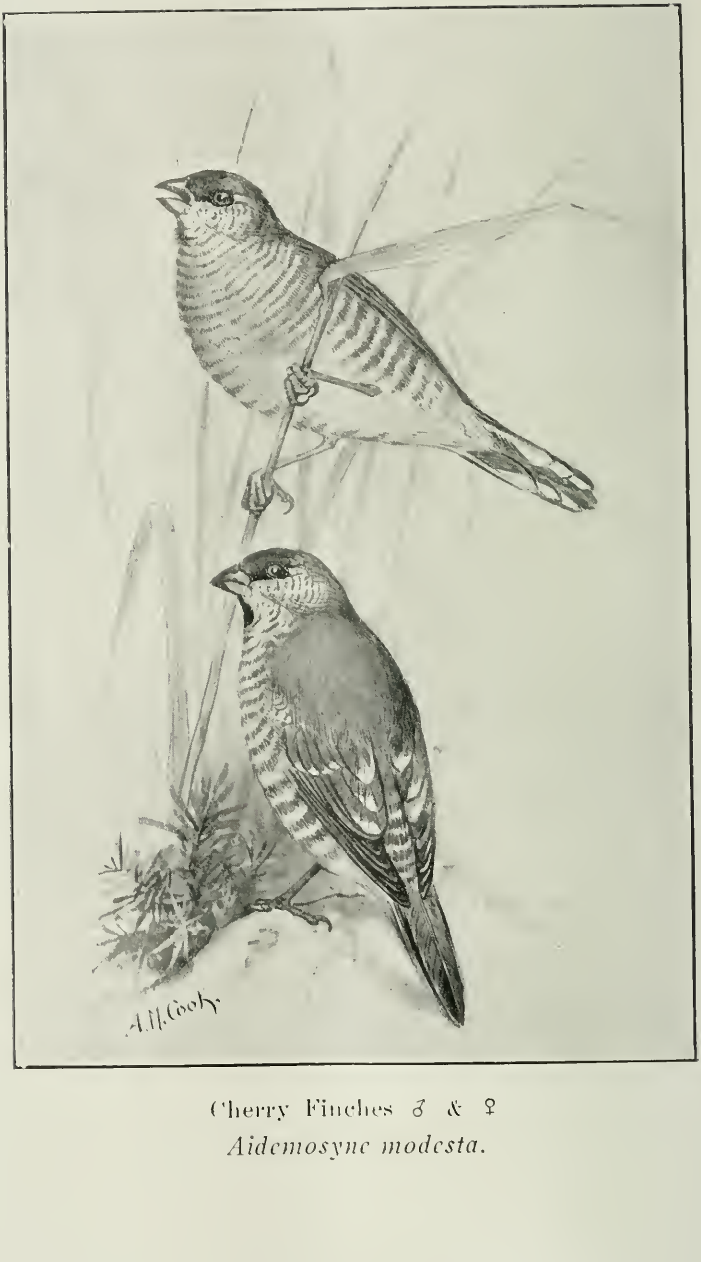
SIR.—As promised I am sending you a few later notes of my Shamahs. From the third brood I have five lusty youngsters, which should make their exit from the nest either to-morrow or next day. If these prosper, as appears very probable, that will make eleven young Shamahs from the one pair this season.

There were six eggs in the last clutch, but one failed to get out of the shell; I tried to help it out, but the hen did not fancy my handiwork! They consume enormous quantities of live food.

Both parents are looking fine, but I am going to take away the nest-box and materials as soon as the young have made their exit.

Of the six young birds of the first two broods I have disposed of two up to the present, but the others and most of the last brood are already bespoke. The remaining four youngsters are in a division of the aviary next to their parents. One cock is growing the black feathers on head and neck, and the three hens spend most of their time chasing each other, one of them being rather a bully.

Kingstown. August 14, 1917. G. E LOW.



Cherry Finches ♂ & ♀
Aidemosyne modesta.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Cherry Finch.

AIDEMOSYNE MODESTA.

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

In April of this year our member, Mr. R. Arnold of Streatham, received from a friend an advice of the shipment of 48 Australian finches, viz: Cherry, Bicheno's, Crimson, and Gouldian Finches, which, after much correspondence he was permitted to clear under conditions.

Two pairs each of Cherry and Crimson Finches were kindly presented to me by Mr. Arnold, and from this arises the present article, and another to follow on the Bicheno's Finch.

The Cherry Finch has been known to aviculture for a long period, but is one of those species which have appeared on the English bird market at fitful periods and mostly in limited quantities, being at times really rare and mostly uncommon.

The illustrations were kindly drawn for us (gratis) by our member Mrs. A. M. Cook, from studies which she made of the birds from life in Mr. Arnold's aviaries—the study of the birds and nest were made by her from very rough diagrams supplied by the writer of this episode in his aviary and are true to life in every respect.

The Cherry Finch agrees almost in every respect in demeanour, contour and general characteristics with its near relative the Silverbill *(A. cantans)*, and like that species the hens are subject to egg-binding during wet, chilly weather, of which we have had much in this county (Surrey) this season.

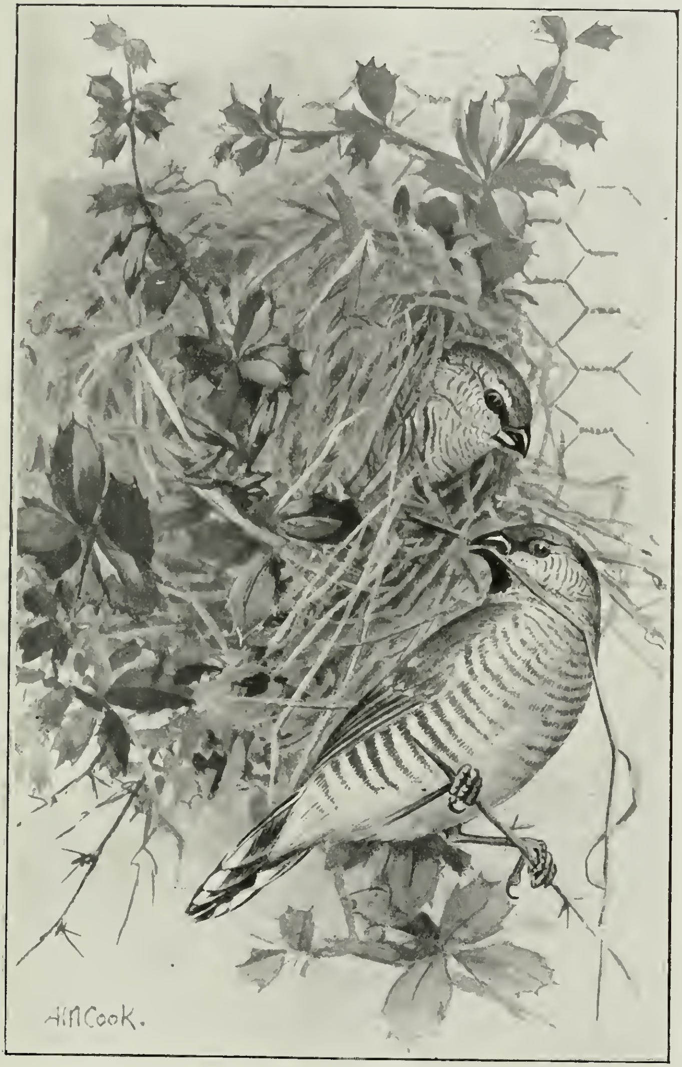
The Cherry Finch is most decidedly a pretty and also a handsome bird, and, if not clad in tropical colours, its colour arrangement is most pleasing, contrasty and the harmony is perfect. It is vivacious yet amiable, very cheery and constantly uttering its merry little lay, and is in every way an acquisition to the finch aviary. It has moreover the advantage of being easy to breed, sexes easy to distinguish, the one drawback being the liability of the hens to chill, during chilly wet periods, and consequently dying from inability to pass the egg unless discovered in time.

DESCRIPTION. *Male.*—Upper parts brown, the rump is barred with white and the upper tail-coverts spotted with the same colour; tail blackish brown with white terminal spots on the outer feathers; wings brown, flights dusky-brown with paler outer margins; inner secondaries with terminal white spots; crown dark brown, with the fore portion plum colour; eye region and ear-coverts white, the latter barred with brown; underparts white, with a black gorget and the sides of neck and flanks barred with brown; beak black; legs dusky flesh colour; iris deep chestnut.

Female.—General colour arrangement similar to male, but the plum coloured patch on the fore-crown is smaller, the white of her underparts distinctly greyish, and she has no black gorget.

HABITAT, ETC.—It ranges over the wide Bay region, N.S. Wales, Victoria and Southern Australia generally. It builds its nest amid tallish ground herbage or in a low bush, and the clutch usually numbers five white eggs.

IN CAPTIVITY. In this country this pretty species is also known as the Plum-headed, and Modest Grassfinch, but the name at head of this article is the one in most general use. I have said this species is easy to breed and while this is quite true, it is such a nervous little bird, usually leaving its eggs as soon as anyone enters the aviary or passes near it outside the aviary, consequently very few young have been reared by aviculturists in this country; also its liability to egg-binding in damp chilly weather renders the prospect of successfully rearing young even more remote. I have found in my aviary that though it mostly adheres to its wild habits, and either makes its nest amid ground herbage, or in a low bush—the nest figured on our plate was placed in a small leaved Berberis eighteen inches above the ground, nevertheless there are exceptions to this rule, and this season two nests have been constructed in my aviary, amid wild convolvulus, six feet above the ground, but alas! though at least six nests have been built no young have been reared. The pair figured on our plate nested within a fortnight of arrival, but the hen died with her fourth egg. The other pair have been



Cherry Finches and Nest.

nesting on and off the whole season.

Two cocks and one hen are still alive and thriving, and mostly show themselves whenever the aviary is visited or passed.

Beyond snapping up an occasional insect, and eating freely of the growing herbage in the aviary, their diet with me is an entirely seed one.

Mr. J. Cronkshaw was the first to rear this species in this country (1895), when one young bird was fully reared. Since the initial success other aviculturists have been successful in breeding the Cherry Finch, but, though easy to breed it certainly is not a prolific species in captivity.

My readers must not infer from the above that the species is a delicate one, quite the reverse, but like many other species of hardy birds, the hens cannot stand cold wet periods at the time of egg laying.

Much more might be said of their mannerisms at various periods of the year, but space and paper are precious in these times; moreover I do not desire to exhaust the subject, as I hope other members will send in articles upon this pretty little finch.

Stray Notes in My Birdroom.

By Mrs. J. H. Burgess.

The following notes cover the whole of this season up to August 29th.

My birdroom and indoor flights were described in an earlier issue of *Bird Notes*, so I need not refer to these again.

Zebra Finches.—These charming mites constructed a really wonderful nest of grasses, etc., in a Hartz travelling-cage suspended in their flight. The nest is built inside the cage, but all round the outside it is stuffed with all kinds of grasses and it is impossible to see the nest proper without entering the flight and making a close examination; then one sees a round long-shaped nest, running from the front to back of cage like a tunnel, and right at the back sits Mrs. Zebra incubating a clutch of eggs. So far no young have been reared, though several clutches of eggs have been laid. The cock bird carried all materials and worked as though his life depended upon it. Small as he is, no other bird dare go near his nest—quick march is the word to all intruders.

They have carried on this unsatisfactory behaviour right up to date, seeming to love egg laying as a hobby! They never sit out the full incubation period.

Red-naped Lorikeet.—He is a lovely bird but I have been unable to get a mate for him, and lacking one of his own kind paired up with a hen Rosella Parrakeet, who forsook her own mate for him. For a time they searched the interiors of all the nest barrels, finally settling on one; several eggs were laid, which always disappeared, eaten I suspect by the Red-nape.

Cutthroats.—These also have laid numbers of eggs without rearing any young. They forsake the eggs to consruct another home, on the last occasion leaving six eggs in a husk to construct another nest in a box. The cock carries all the material; I have never seen the hen carry any.

Later: These have another clutch of eggs, but after nearly sitting out their time forsook them—in fact their record in this respect is very similar to that of my Zebra Finches.

Budgerigars.—Both Yellow and Greens (3 pairs) are sitting in their husks, the cocks keeping guard on the top of their respective households, which look very funny; when my Lady's head appears at the front door what a chattering and hissing there is!

A wonderful (so it appeared to me) thing happened to a Green hen; she somehow fell and broke her legs and damaged her wings, for she could not fly, while at home a clutch of five eggs were awaiting incubation. The cock was in a sad state, while the hen made attempt after attempt to reach her husk, she was quite unable to get a hold over a piece of wood that was in her way. The cock bird seeing her predicament came down to her assistance, and side by side another attempt was made, the cock supporting and helping his mate, and when they came to the piece of wood the cock got right beneath her so that she could rest one leg on his back and at last after a big effort both arrived safely at the husk. To me this appeared very wonderful.

Later: There are now quite a number of young birds about, both Greens and Yellows; also some from the Blue-bred pairs, but alas! no Blues among them; all are Green, but I hope yet that there may be at least one Blue one this season.

Red-billed Weavers.—These spend all their time weaving about the wirework. The little AVADAVATS I see little of as they spend nearly all their time in a rush nest. A SILVERBILL has paired with a BENGALEE but there has been no result so far. Later: Now sitting on a clutch of eggs and I hope the result may be favourable.

TUI PARRAKEETS.—My pair are most interesting. They seem greatly interested in the Budgerigars in the nest, and feed the sitting birds assiduously, but later they settled down to domestic duties on their own account and are now incubating a clutch of eggs.

BLACK-FACED LOVEBIRDS.—A pair of these charming and interesting birds are incubating a clutch of eggs and my hopes are high.

COCKATEELS.—Again a case of no young reared, but the hen is a very funny bird with a strong individuality of her own. She apes death, mostly when eggs are due, and many times I have picked her up believing she was dead, but her beak soon convinced me otherwise. She has laid many eggs, but they have either been infertile, thrown out, or she failed to sit the full period. At the end of May she died and her husband is disconsolate. He patiently sits all day and his cries are pitiful in the evening when he seeks to call her to her duty—I must get another mate for him. Fortunately I soon found one and Mr. Cocky was soon happy again and mutually incubating the eggs of the late departed one.

CANARIES.—I must put in a word about my Roller Canaries, I am greatly interested in them and usually have good luck with them. Some young are already on the perch and promise well. LATER: The season has been a really good one and many young have been fully reared and are now singing grandly. I have five crossbred Roller × Lizard Canaries and their parents are sitting again. The young birds are very handsome and sing grandly.

GOLDEN ORIOLE WEAVERS.—These are most fascinating, handsome and interesting birds, I could watch them all day weaving their wonderful nests; how interesting their display is! What wonderful energy is displayed as they cling to their nest with wildly flapping wings, trilling forth their harsh song for all they are worth. The nest was the work of the cock except the inner lining which was the work of the hen bird. After the nest was complete the hen spent most of her time therein and the cock, now in full colour, appears to have gone singing-mad. They have a clutch of eggs and are sitting well—if I have any luck I will send you the details.

On June 11th a lady friend brought me a young bird, crow she thought it was, it turned out later to be a Jackdaw. It was quite a baby, found it in her garden—how it came there, unable to fly and no high trees in or near the garden, is a mystery. It is perfectly tame and follows us all about. We have called it Jimmy. We still feed him from a spoon and his noisy cawing at this time is not pleasant. He is very playful and very fond of bright things. Later: Jimmy is still alive, getting very big, a most amusing pet and a more pleasant companion now he has lost his noisy baby caw.

Quite a recent acquisition is a pair of Alexandrine Parrakeets. These have proved quite friendly with the other birds in their enclosure. They are very tame and friendly, their pink beaks look quite formidable, but I have found them most gentle.

I trust these stray jottings may interest some of my fellow members. I should say that while cleaning operations are on all the birds fly about the room together, going back to their own enclosures afterwards. So far they have been quite amiable while thus flying together.

◆

Whydahs.

By Dr. E. Hopkinson. D.S.O.

(Continued from page 186).

(For definition of abbreviations used in this list *vide* page 186).

SPLENDID BLACK WHYDAH.

Vidua hypocherina. H.L.v. 408.

Synonomy.

I

Resplendent Whydah.
" Long-tailed Combasou."

II

Vidua hypocherina. Verr. 1856. and Cat. xiii 208.
V. resplendens. Reich. 1879.

References. Forbes. P.Z.S. 1880. 457. Plate. 47. figs. 1 and 3. Sh. iv. 14. Butler. i. 187. Singv. 61.

Range. N.E. and E. Africa. (S. Abyssinia to Somali Land and Ugogo).

The plate in the P.Z.S. was drawn from a living specimen then in the Zoo. In the note accompanying the plate we are told that the bird was received out of colour on the 17th of July, 1878, that it came into colour in the following summer and died moulting and in a poor condition in March, 1880.

Nothing is known of this bird's nest or eggs, and indeed but little of any details of its wild life. As a cage bird it is distinctly rare.

In the A.M. for 1899 there are letters on two examples imported at that time, and it has since been occasionally brought in. Mr. Allen Silver in the A.M. for 1917., p. 89 says that some were offered for sale in 1914, all of which, however, he believes were really Ultramarine Combasous. See below under this bird.

In the previous year (1913) I bought a male of this species, or at least a bird described as such by the seller. It was coming into colour when obtained, but died about 5 weeks later " all black and with the long tail feathers just appearing " say my notes made at the time. Its red beak and the general shape, that of a Pin-tailed Whydah rather than a Combasou, make me feel certain that this bird was what it purported to be, a Splendid Black Whydah, although it did not survive long enough to grow a full tail.

◆

PIN-TAILED WHYDAH.

Vidua serena. (H.L. v. 408.)

Synonomy.

1

Vidua hypocherina. (H.L.v.408).
Vidua hypocherina. Verr. 1856. Cat.xiii.208.

References. Forbes. P.Z.S. 1880. 457. Plate.47. figs. 1 and 3. Sh. iv. 14. Butler. i. 187. Singv. 61.

Pin-tailed Widow Bird.
Common Widow Bird, (the English in S. A. /St.).

Principal Whydah-Bird, occasional book name.
White-breasted Whydah, ditto.
Red-billed Whydah, ditto.
* Vida finch, occasional old book name.
* Dominican Bunting (Lth).
* Dominican Widow Bird, * Dominican Whydah Bird.
* Long-tailed Sparrow (Edw.), * Long-tailed Bunting (Lth).
* Variegated Bunting (Lth).
" Koning Roodebec " Dutch V. in S. A.
" Kaffir-fink," Local V. in the Transvaal, /Rendall (Sh).

II

Emberiza serena (Linn. 1766), *Fringilla serena* (VII. 1817). *Vidua serena* (Cuv. 1827). *Videstrelda serena* (Lafr. 1850).
Emberiza vidua (Linn. 1766).
Emberiza principalis (Linn. 1766); *Vidua principalis* (Cuv. 1817). B.M. Cat. xiii. 203.
Fringilla superciliosa (VII. 1817).
Vidua erythrorhyncha (Sw. 1837).
Vidua fuliginosa (Licht. 1854).
Vidua decora (Hartl. 1868).
Estrelda carmelita (Hartl. 1868).

References. Butler. F.F. 279. Pl. ♂ & ♀. Cassell. 401. Pl. ♂. Sw. i. 176. Pl. 12. Russ. i. 208. Pl. 7. Singv. 60. Pl. 25. B.S.A. i. 145. Butler. i. 187. Gedney. ii. 121. Sh. iv. 16.

Range. Tropical Africa.

This well-known cage-bird has a very extensive range, but, in spite of this, most modern authorities consider that there no necessity for the division of the species into geographical races. South African birds are generally rather larger than those from West, but the same applies to many specimens from East Africa as well, and anyhow there is perfect graduation from the largest to the smallest.

At the present day there is considerable doubt about its breeding habits, which we will hope Aviculture will soon help to settle. Up to date there is only one recorded instance of this bird's breeding in confinement, and this is so vague as to throw no light on this point. (see B.N. 1909. 257 & A.M. 1910. 254). Until quite recently it appears to have been generally held that in this respect the Pin-tailed Whydah was normally behaved. The nest is described by a South African writer as a somewhat openly woven domed nest of fine grass suspended between the stems of a thick grass tuft a few inches off the ground, the ends of the growing grass being tied together over the nest to conceal it. This writer (Ayres) did not know the eggs, as the only nest he had seen (he says) contained young birds. Shelley, however, from whom the above is taken, in the following paragraph describes the eggs (without any note of doubt, as Butler remarks) as glossy greyish white with underlying violet marks and clear black or dark brown elongated surface-marks evenly distributed.

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* The asterisk denotes an obsolete name in this and the other lists.

In 1906 or 1907, however, another South African writer, (Austin Roberts, in the Journal of the S.A. Ornith. Union) stated that he had found this bird to be parasitic in its breeding habits. At first he thought that its victim was another Whydah, the Red-collared, but later decided that the eggs were laid in Waxbills' nests *(E. astrilda)*. Butler considers these notes of Mr. Roberts' " far from conclusive," but on the other hand the Editor of the Ibis in a notice of one of Mr. Roberts' papers says (1914. p. 528), " we can see no valid reason for doubting his words." There the matter stands for further investigation and evidence. Unless one can believe that the bird is sometimes a parasite and sometimes not, it is clear that there must have been a mistake somewhere. Personally although I know the bird well in West Africa, I have no knowledge whatever of its nest or breeding habits, but from my general experience of how easily one can be mistaken on such matters, I should be all in favour of going by the more recent observations. The original description, it must be remembered, was that of a single nest,—the only one the describer had seen,—while the observations of Roberts appear to have been numerous and spread over some years, and to have therefore much more certainly excluded the chances of error than one single one could do. How easily mistakes can and have been made, when opportunity for frequent investigation is wanting, can be seen from the paragraph with which Stark closes his account of this very bird: " A nest brought to Heuglin in Abyssinia " (he writes) and ascribed by him to the present species is, " from the description, obviously that of one of the African Tailor-birds.

Since the above was written more light backed by more fact has been thrown on the question of this bird's parasitism by some recent observations by Mr. van Someren in British East Africa. These, which would seem to settle the question once and for all, are contained in a letter to the A.M. for 1917. (p. 288). So interesting and so important are they in this connection, that I will quote the part which deals with this matter in extenso. In reference to Mrs. Anningson's success in breeding the Pintail, he writes:—

> " This is interesting, for, in this country (the latter is written from " Nairobi. B. E. A.) *V. principalis* is parasitic—that is the female lays her " eggs in other finches' nests, either one or two eggs in the nest of each " host. I have never come across more than two eggs. The eggs are " pure white when blown. The most common bird to be victimised is the " small waxbill, *Estrilda estrilda massaica*, but I have also taken the eggs " or young from the nests of *E. paludicola*, *E. delamerei*, *E. rhodopyga*, " and from the small fire-finch, *Lagonosticta ruberrima*. At this very " moment there are two young Pintails being fed just outside my aviaries by a pair of waxbills. In my aviaries these birds have deposited their " eggs in a nest of the African sparrow, *Passer rufocinctus*, but this is no " doubt due to the fact that no other birds except the sparrow and the " pintails were nesting at the same time.
>
> " Did Mrs. Anningson's birds build a nest of their own, were the eggs " laid in another bird's nest, or did Mrs. Anningson find them on the floor " of the cage and put them under another bird to be incubated?
>
> " The young of *V. principalis* do not resemble the adults in any way. " They are uniform hair-brown above, buff below, and with blackish-brown " bills."

In the same letter the writer says that he has kept four other East African Whydahs and that they have nested in his aviaries, but owing to over-crowding have never been able to incubate or rear their young. He says all are easily caught and travel well, so should be introduced to home aviculture without much difficulty. These are *Coliustruthus concolor*, *hartlaubi*, and *eques*, and *Diatropura progne*.

(To be continued).

The Blue Mountain Lorikeet.

In *The Emu* for July 1917, vol. 17, page 13, appeared a most interesting account of the above species in a semi-wild state, by Messrs. Campbell and Barnard, the well known Australian ornithologists, in their article entitled *Birds of North Queensland*. It interested me so much that I thought it a pity that the members of *The Foreign Bird Club* who are not members of the Royal Australian Ornithologists' Union should be deprived of the pleasure of reading it. I therefore have copied out the paragraphs referring to this well known Brush-tongued Lorikeet and I hope in so doing I am in no way infringing on the copyright of the authors, and if so I trust they will accept my apologies.

TRICHOGLOSSUS SEPTENTRIONALIS.

NORTHERN BLUE-BELLIED LORIKEET.

" A common bird on the coastal country and the table-land, feeding in the flowering eucalyptus, chiefly the so-called " blue gum " *(E. tereticornis)* in the former locality and the poplar-leaved gum *(E. platyphylla)* in the latter. These Lorikeets were also fond of fossicking the red " bottle-brushes " of the *Callistemons* that flowered by the streams."

the flowering eucalyptus chiefly, the so-called " blue gum " *(E. tereticornis)* the hollows of the trees. They appear to use hollows to repose in as well as to breed. Off and on during the night you can hear the birds " talking " in their hollows, when to sleep, instead of perching, as do most other birds, they lie down or coil up, resting their heads on the inside bottom of the hole. This we judged by analogy by seeing pet birds sleep on the bottom of their cages instead of on perches."

" Whether about a home or in the bush wilds, the " Blue Mountain Parrot " is a great favourite. We were fortunate in observing a tame bird, in shining plumage, at " Fringford." One wing was clipped, but by the aid of bill and claws it climbed everywhere in the house, and outside to the tops of trees, where it would cackle in imitation of the fowls, and make other extraordinary calls. The bird was four years old, and was brought in by the blacks from its nest and reared by Mrs. Butler."

" Regarding " Blue Mountains " in the bush, there is a remarkable picture by Mr. E. M. Cornwall in *The Emu* (vol. x. pl. xi) shewing Mrs. Innes, of Pratolina, near Mackay, surrounded by a feathered crowd of her bush pets."

" Mr. T. R. Gardiner told us of a similar experience which he had when in charge of the telegraph station in the Walsh River, North Queensland, 1891—1905. The surrounding timber was chiefly " box " and bloodwood (eucalypts). At first Mr. Gardiner had a young caged bird that enticed a wild bird, which was captured. On account of its brilliant plumage it was called "Reddy" and, after being feasted on sugar and other dainties for about six months, was set at liberty again."

"Reddy," mindful of "home comforts" occasionally returned with a mate, and subsequently with young ones, all of which Mr. Gardiner continued to feed with sugar and water. Then, as if imposing on good natures, scores of birds came, and finally hundreds at a time! Such a screeching and scolding—an awful noise—especially at early morn. If anything, the birds were thickest about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. But birds were always about, perching on the wire, under the verandah, or were bathing. The birds became so common that even the cat treated them with contempt. To feed this most interesting feathered family it cost Mr. Gardiner, for seven years, the value of five bags of sugar per year."

"When Mr. Gardiner was reading or reclining, numbers of his feathered friends would climb all over him, and were fond of running his hair through their bills. But, strange to say, the birds would not alight on his man or his man's wife, although both used to feed the birds in Mr. Gardiner's absence. Often when Mr. Gardiner was returning home flocks of hungry fluttering Lorikeets would meet him at the slip-pannel, 100 yards away from the house."

"We took eggs on the table-land of *T. septentionalis*, which appears to be a good northern variety of the "Blue Mountain" Parrot of southern parts. It is a pretty sight to witness these birds bathing among the branches that hold the rain or the copious dewdrops of the night. How they flutter their wings and revel in the exercise!"

With the help of Seth-Smith's beautifully illustrated book on Parrakeets one can easily visualize the above depicted scene. The fluttering crowd of perhaps the most brightly coloured birds in the world round Mr. Gardiner as he fed his feathered friends in the brilliant sunshine of North Queensland, must indeed have been a sight for the gods, for I think the Lorikeets are easily given the first place as regards variety of colour in the large and varied family of Parrots.

W. H. WORKMAN. M.B.O.U.

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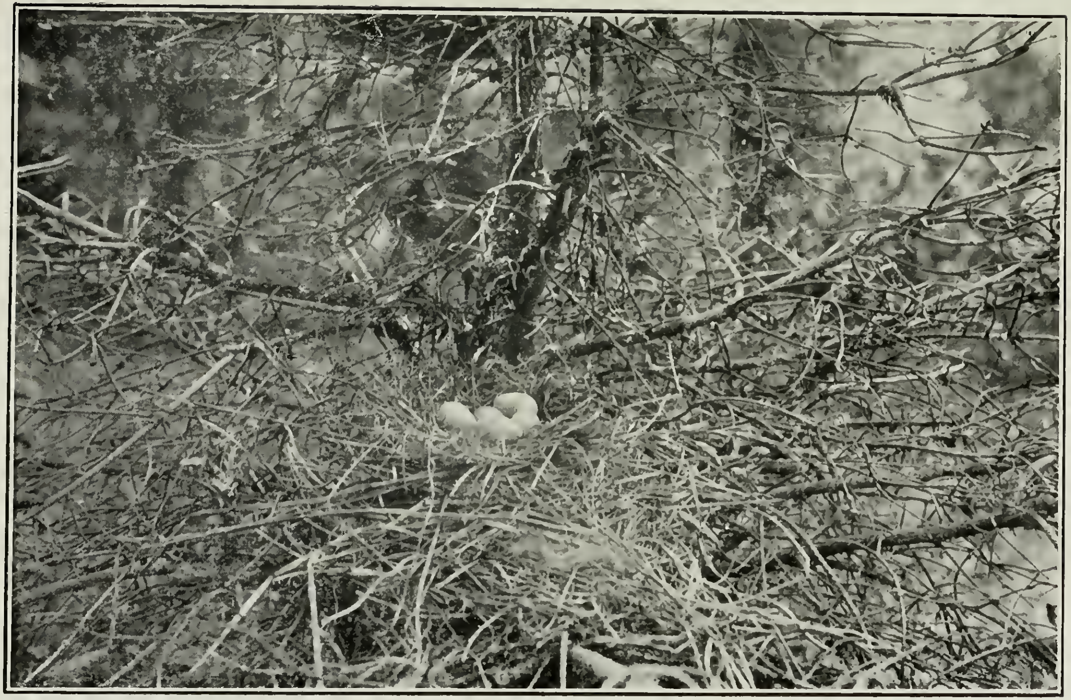
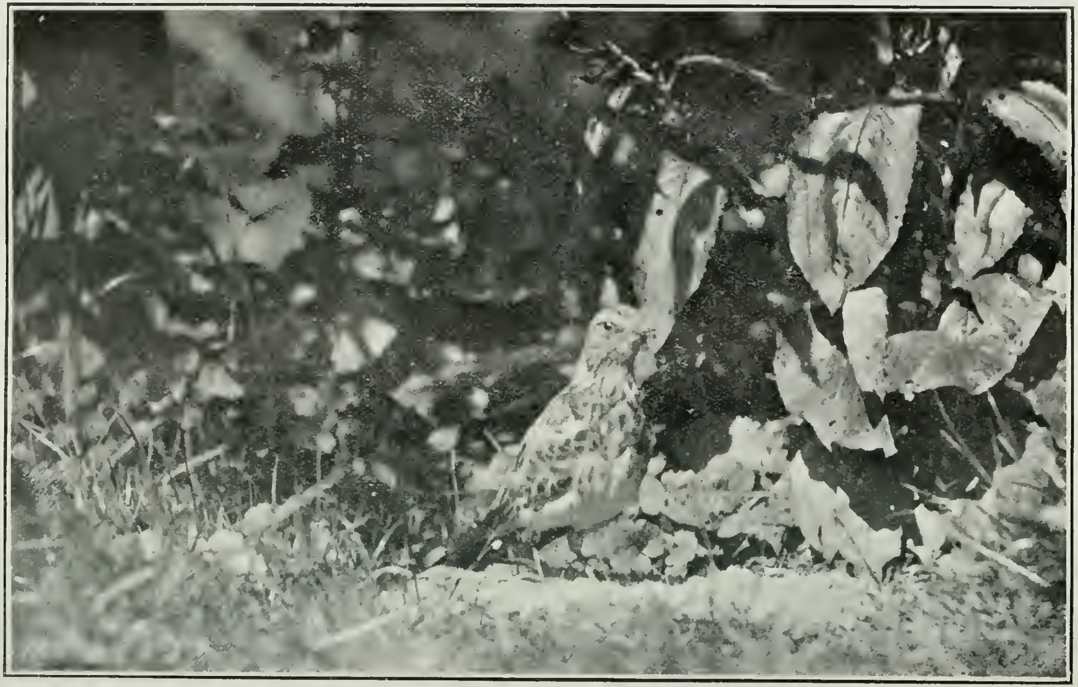
The Nesting of the Fieldfare, etc.

By W. Shore Baily.

There are two birds on the British List that I have always had an ambition to breed. These are the Fieldfare and the Redwing. Neither bird has, I believe, been bred in England in captivity, and it is very doubtful whether the former bird has done so in the wild state, and I think that there are very few



Fieldfare's Nest and Eggs. *Photo W. Shore Baily.*

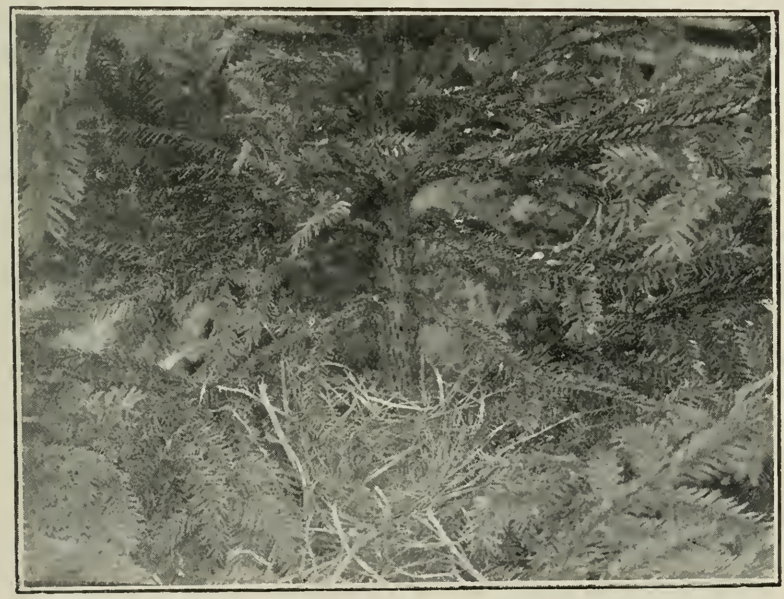


Hen Fieldfare.

Photo W. Shore Baily.

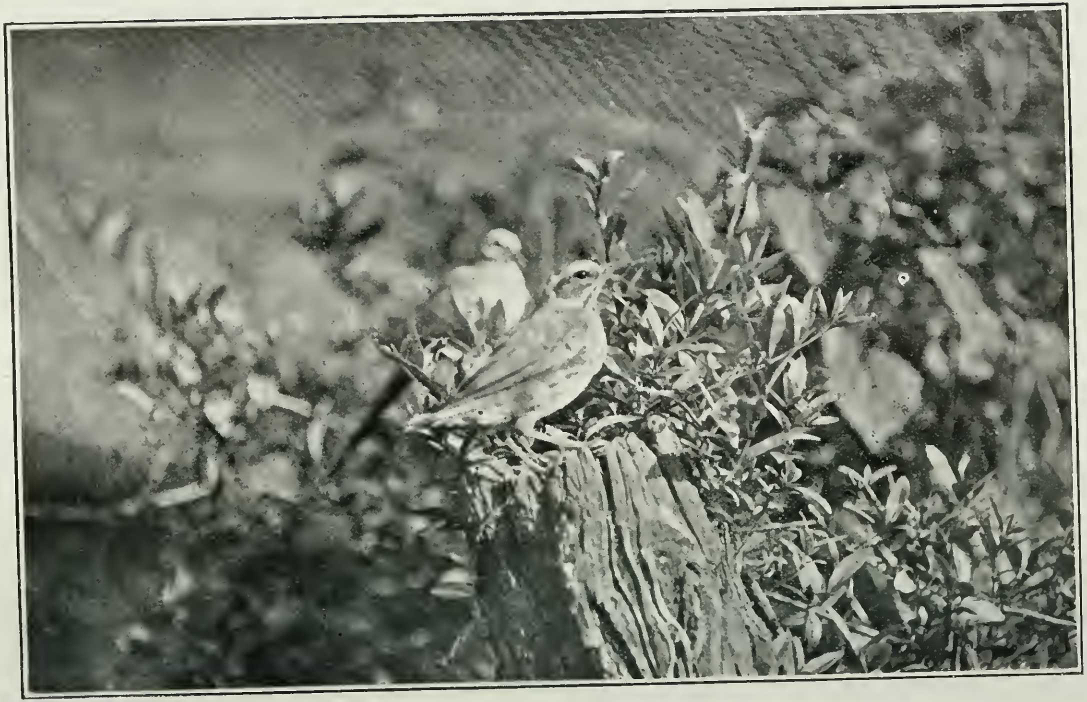
authentic cases of the nesting of the Redwing. The Fieldfare, although not so large as the Missel Thrush, is in my view, the handsomest of the British thrushes ; moreover, as an edible bird, he is by no means to be despised. What sportsman is there amongst our readers, who has not at one time or another, when game was scarce, and a flock of these birds has passed high over his head, tried to rake down one or two. The writer when, in his young days, he was wont to pursue the wily Golden Plover, has often added a few plump Fieldfares to his bag, and he must confess that he would'nt in the least mind doing so again. But in these parts they are by no means a common bird even in hard winters.

THE FIELDFARE.—Their nearest breeding ground is in the Norwegian pine forests. Here they are said to breed in colonies. The writer once found a nest near Trondheim, his attention being called to it by the squalling of the hungry young. There may have been other nests in the neighbourhood, but we hadn't much time for bird nesting and consequently didn't see them. For several years I had two of these birds in my aviaries, but



Nest of Redwing. [*By W. Shore Baily.*

my efforts to breed them were not successful, which is perhaps not to be wondered at, as both birds turned out to be males. The sexes are very much alike, but the male is darker and a trifle larger, and is an altogether handsomer bird than his mate. I do not think that I should have any difficulty in sexing them now, at any rate in the breeding season. My pair first shewed signs of nesting in June. The hen, a very tame bird and usually mute, at this time greeted me, when I entered the aviary, with a low and plaintive whistle. I at first thought that she was ailing, as she looked very mopish and kept a good deal to the thick cover. A careful watch shewed that the cock was paying her a good deal of attention, and one day I was very pleased to see her carrying building material. She selected, as a site for her nest, and old Doves' nest in a dead spruce fir. On this she built a large nest, mainly composed of dry grass, fibrous roots and lumps of hair. When to all appearances it was completed, she started in to line it with mud, bringing lumps in her beak from the banks of the pond, as large as a walnut. When she had covered the bottom and sides with this to her satisfaction, she lined it with fine grass, and then laid four eggs. These I had expected to find similar in colour and markings to those of the Missel Thrush, for this is how they are described in one of my bird books, but they were really quite different, closely resembling the eggs of the Blackbird. They were slightly smaller than those in the nest of the latter bird in one of my other aviaries, and were of a darker shade of green; still I believe that in my boyhood days I took blackbirds' eggs that could not have been distinguished from them. The cock fieldfare took no part in the nest building operations, but guarded the nest in the absence of the hen. He is naturally a very wild bird, but he now became comparatively tame. Unfortunately an indiscreet action on my part caused the hen to desert the nest. Thinking that, as it was very much exposed, it would be well to provide some artificial shelter, I had my man place a sheet of galvanized iron on the netting, immediately over the nest, but this well intentioned action was resented, and the hen did not go near it again. However, within ten days she was again nesting, this time in a box suspended from the roof of the aviary. She now became quite fierce. Evidently her first failure had soured her temper. On one occasion when



Redwing.

Photo W. Shore Baily.

showing the nest to my father-in-law, who is a member of the V. T. C., she flew straight at his face. It was most amusing to see him evade the attack, and I congratulated him on the efficient way in which he carried out the instructions of his officers as to taking cover when in face of the enemy. At another time when I was passing near the nest, she pitched on my bare head and went for me tooth and nail. I thought from these demonstrations that she would be sure to prove a good mother. But alas! the contrary was the case, for, after again laying four eggs, she declined to sit at all. In justce to the bird, I must say that on the day she laid her last egg, we had no less than 3½ inches of rain in the twenty four hours, and this I think gave her a chill, as she looked very ill for several days after. A week or two later both birds went into moult.

THE REDWING.—Their closely allied congener the Redwing is a much shyer bird, and it spends most of its time on or near the ground. They visit us in the winter in very large numbers, and, to the casual observer, are simply rather small thrushes. However, a closer look shows them to have a very much shorter tail than the Song Thrush. In the winter the so called redwing, which is really a red flank, is only noticeable when the bird is flying. Their breeding grounds lie still further north than those of the Fieldfare, many of them bringing up their young in the treeless districts of the far north. Their nests there are built upon the ground. The writer saw young birds in Lapland in the month of August, that had evidently been bred in a thicket of dwarf willows. In my aviary my birds nested early in June. Unfortunately, I can give no particulars, as they must have gone about their building very unobstrusively. My attention was first called to them one morning by seeing the old birds flying about a spruce fir, in a state of great agitation. I arrived just in time to see a large snake disappearing into the grass. I then found the nest placed low down in the tree. It was empty, the snake having evidently robbed it. It was a good deal smaller than a thrush's, and not mud lined, being finished off in this respect like a blackbird's. It was unlucky that I did not find it earlier, as I should have liked to have been able to describe the eggs. I hoped that they would have again gone to nest, but they did not do so, although I frequently saw the cock displaying to the hen, which he did by contracting his wings, so as to show his flanks, which at this time are a rich red. These birds are not so omnivorous as the Fieldfares. They maintain themselves in my aviary very largely upon ground insects, a large patch of potatoes proving a happy hunting ground for them. Still, I think that if they were to have young, they would be fairly easy to rear.

THE CIRL BUNTING.—My next failure was with one of our resident birds, the Cirl Bunting. Although this bird breeds in the southern counties, it is by no means common and I cannot recollect ever having met with it. This spring I was offered a cock and two hens, and thinking that I should like to get a few photos of their nesting arrangements, I secured them. Early in the spring the cock started singing, choosing the highest point in the aviary from which to pour forth his song. The hens were very retiring little birds, spending their time for the most part near the ground, but early in June one of them responded to the cock's vocal appeal, and was evidently willing to take on housekeeping. The cock was the sole architect and builder of their new home, selecting as a site the lower part of a quick-set hedge. Here he built a very neat little nest of bents, dried grass and hair. The hen took possession, but before she had completed her clutch she was foully murdered by a brute of a Bramble finch cock, who the next day also killed a cock Sikhim Siskin, before I could get to his rescue. The male bunting now made love to the remaining hen, and gave her no peace until she consented to do her duty. He built her a nest in the same hedge, but this time at the extreme top, but fairly well protected against ordinary rainstorms. But this year the rainstorms have been anything but ordinary, and the same downfall that spoilt my Fieldfares' nest ruined this one also. The hen had laid four eggs, like the Yellow Hammers in colour, but smaller and more spherical. Just about the time that I was going for my holiday, I saw the cock again carrying building material, but I did not locate the nest. I take it that this must have been a failure too, as I have seen no young ones about. This bird has, I believe been bred more than once in captivity, but I think that I shall try them again next year, as a photo or two of the birds feeding young, incubating, etc., would be of some interest.

A Cruise on the S.Y. "Vectis."

By W. Shore Baily.

(Continued from page 175.)

Torghatten Island is a mountain rising out of the sea with a very curious hole through its top. It took us about an hour to climb to this, but we were rewarded for our exertions by a splendid panoramic view. There were a few native women awaiting us with bread and goat milk for sale, they also had a few simple curios and some Eider-duck eggs, the latter evidently here an article of commerce. The only birds I noticed on the Island, besides a few gulls, were some Lapland Buntings, which looked as if they might have been nesting near. Early next morning we found ourselves at Narvik. This is the terminus of what was at that time the most northerly railway in the world. Since the war the Russians have built one for military purposes at a still higher latitude. The Narvik railway was built to carry the ore from some important iron mines, just inside the Swedish frontier. After breakfast a trip was arranged to the border by this railway. My recollection of this is that it was an intensely cold expedition, as at the latter end of the journey snow was falling heavily. On the Swedish frontier the weather brightened. Here there is a series of large lakes. On one of these I noticed a flock of Sandpipers flying, but was too far away to indentify them. Possibly they were Little Stints or Curlew Sandpipers, both of which are said to nest in these latitudes. I also saw with some Lapland Buntings some birds I took to be Snow Buntings. The botanists amongst our party were in their element here. We were told that forty different varieties of alpine plants could be collected within a mile of the railway station. All the next day we steamed through the fjords, passing close to the Lofoten Islands, the centre of an important codfishing industry.

Amongst the splendid mountain scenery, our attention was called to a range called the Seven Sisters, seven peaks of apparently about equal altitude adjoining each other. Numbers of Gulls were now again following the ship, and amongst them we noticed a few of the large White-winged Burgomasters, a Gull that sometimes visits the English coast in hard weather. We also saw two or three family parties of the Great Northern Diver

They were not at all shy and the old birds looked very handsome. In the evening we reached Tromso and spent the whole day there. A visit to a Lap encampment proved most interesting. It had been arranged that they should drive up their herd of Reindeer for our inspection, and this they endeavoured to do. They appeared to have several hundred of these animals, and it took a small army of Laps and dogs to round them up and drive them towards us. When they were within half a mile of the camp, the deer refused to face the music and stampeded. Dozens of the little Laps were overturned in their rush, causing great amusement amongst the spectators and themselves. The only vegetation we noticed in this part of Lapland was some scrub willows, amongst which the Redwings were nesting, and we saw several young birds not yet strong on the wing. In the afternoon the yacht was boarded by yet another Royalty; this time the Duc d' Orleans, the heir to the French throne, whose yacht we had seen in the harbour. We were not at all impressed by either his appearance or his manner.

Later in the day, as we were leaving for Hammerfest, the S.S. Ophir steamed in. She was about 2,000 tons larger than the "Vectis," but did not look nearly as smart and yachtlike. After leaving Tronso we were soon once again in the open sea, which we were extremely glad to find was reasonably calm. We arrived at Hammerfest, the most northerly town in the world, early the next morning, and found that the "Ophir" had also come in. This town owes its existence to the whale and cod fisheries. The whole place is saturated with fish oil. I have seen many queer and undesirable towns, but this one is the limit, and it is one of the few places in Norway that I have no wish to revisit. Whilst walking back to the quay, my friend met one of the passengers on the "Ophir" with whom he was acquainted, and we were invited to visit the ship, so in the afternoon we hired a boat and rowed across to her. The "Ophir" was the vessel in which our King when Prince of Wales visited India with his staff, so we naturally expected to see a well appointed yacht, and in this we were not disappointed. The principal feature on the "Ophir" was its dining saloon, a large and lofty room with beautifully decorated walls and ceiling. The other accommodation was, in our perhaps biassed opinion, not so good as that on the "Vectis," but what interested us most was the passengers.

They were a most cosmopolitan lot. I should think that every country in Europe was represented on the passenger list, and as many of them wore their national costume, they looked most weird in their present surroundings. We were told that they were a very happy family, and that dances and other entertainments were of frequent occurrence on board. They certainly looked an interesting crowd.

In the afternoon we steamed away for the North Cape which we reached soon after dinner. Those of us who were energetic enough were taken on shore in the launch. This short trip was hardly a picnic. Most of us got wet, and quite a few of us lost our dinners. However, once on shore we were all right. The climb to the top was a stiff one. I should think that it must be at least 1,500 ft. above sea level. The nature of the ground on the summit reminded me of the more barren parts of Dartmoor. There was really very little to see, and but for the fact that it is the most northerly point in Europe, it would not be worth a visit. A few Lapland Buntings were the only birds noticed. The "Vectis" was now headed for Spitzbergen and the northern ice. All kinds of sea fowl were very numerous. Razorbills, Guillemots and Puffins were always in sight upon the water, and many Gulls kept flying around the ship. About midway between the Cape and Spitzbergen we sighted our first whale, but it was at a considerable distance. We also now began to meet with large seals. To what particular variety they belonged I cannot say. They were larger than the seals usually found around the English coasts, but were not so large as the Sealion found in California. A very common bird now was the little Black Guillemot. The only place I had met these birds previously was the Isle of Man, where many years ago I shot a pair in their pretty spotted immature plumage. They were evidently breeding on the Spitzbergen coast. Unfortunately we were prevented from landing here, as a fog sprang up. We "lay to" all day off Bell's Sound, with our Siren going We were joined later on by the "Ophir." As she had twin screws, they decided to try and find their way in, but our captain wouldn't risk it, and gave orders to continue slowly to the northwards. Whilst we were "lying to" birds were continually flying over and around the ship, and, had the light been good, many fine photos could have been taken. Later in the day the fog lifted, and we got a fine view of the north-western shores of the Island. The mountains were snow-covered right to the water's edge. A grand but inhospitable looking coast.

(To be continued).

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The Birds of British Guiana.

By Chas. Dawson, S.J., M.A., (Oxon).

This article is reprinted from the "Journal of the Board of Agriculture of Brit. Guiana," with our apologies and thanks to the Editor, Author and Proprietors.—Editor "Bird Notes."

ANT-THRUSHES.

These birds were so named on the supposition that they feed as thus signified. But they are not known to eat ants and probably none of them do so. They may be seen pecking among fallen leaves where ants abound, but they are in search of other insects. Few, if any, birds feed on ants, except, perhaps, Woodpeckers.

Ant-Thrushes are generally the size of Thrushes, hence their second appellation. They are shy birds, hiding among shrub and bushes, consequently their habits are little known. Their colours also aid them in their obscurity, browns and reds with bars, stripes, patches or spots of black and white being the prevailing tones of the colonial species. The sexes are much alike, but in those which are black or grey, the females are correspondingly rufous. Their voice is loud and shrill, the same note being repeated in a long metallic trill. The common Check-bird may be taken as typical. Not quite the size of a Thrush, it has a sturdy body, a fairly long, stout, beak and simple square tail. In colour, it is dull black with narrow, regular, stripes of white; the hen is similar but rufous. Many of these birds build nests of fibre and swing like hammocks among the branches.

Gnat eaters.—It will be convenient to group with the Ant-Thrushes the two examples of "*Conopophagidae*" (gnat-eating), the *Conopophaga aurita*—"the eared gnat-eater"; as also *Corythopis anthoides*, "the crested gnat-eater," both of which may possibly be found in this colony. Their habits would seem to be unknown. Like the Ant-thrushes they are probably insectivorous. They have long, loose, rump-feathers. In all there are thirty-eight genera of these useful birds, including some three hundred and forty species; all are peculiar to the New World. Of Gnat-eaters there are two genera and sixteen species.

ANT-THRUSHES.—(Colonial) *Formicariidæ.*

Striped Ant-Thrush	*Cymbilanius lineatus.*
Grey Bush Shrike	*Thamnophilus viridis.*
White-breasted Bush Shrike	,, *major.*
Grey-black ,, ,,	,, *cinereo-niger.*
†Starred ,, ,, (?)	,, *stellaris.*
*†Mouse-like ,, ,,	,, *murinus.*
†Freckled ,, ,,	,, *naevius.*
*†Red-necked ,, ,,	,, *ruficollis.*
†Night-grey ,, ,,	,, *cinereinucha.*
†Beautiful ,, ,,	,, *insignis.*
Black-breasted ,, ,,	,, *cirrhatus.*
Common Check-Bird ,,	,, *doliatus.*
Bush (grey-marked) Ant-Thrush	*Dysithamnus spodionotus.*
" (cloven)"	,, *schistaceus.*
†Ruddy-red Anti-Thrush	,, *ardesiacus.*
†Bluish-grey Bush Sprite	*Thamnomanes glaucus.*
*Pigmy Ant-Bird	*Myrmotherula pygmea.*
*	,, *surinamensis.*
†Spotted Ant-Bird	,, *guttata.*
*†Speckled Ant-Bird	,, *gutturalis.*
†Fire-spotted Ant-Bird (?)	,, *pyrrhonota.*
†Hooked-(billed?) Ant-Bird	,, *axillaris.*
*†Long-winged Ant-Bird	,, *longipennis.*
*†Unadorned Ant-Bird	,, *inornatus.*
	, *unicolor.*
†Ash-vented Ant-Bird	, *cinereiventris.*
†Spotted-backed Ant-Bird	,, *dorsimaculatus.*
†Pearl-grey Ant-Bird	*Formicivora grisea.*
Coal-black Ant-Bird (?)	,, *consobrina.*
*†Smooth-ashen-feathered Ant-Bird	*Terenura spodioptila.*
†White-vented Ant-Bird	*Rhamphocaenus albiventris.*
†Collared neo-crooked Ant-Bird	,, *collaris.*
*†Grey Spotted-tailed Ant-Bird	*Cercomacra cinerascens.*
*†Wood Spotted-tailed Ant-Bird	,, *napensis.*
*†Tyrant Spotted-tailed Ant-Bird	,, *tyrannina.*
†White-crested Ant-Bird	*Pithys albifrons.*
*†Red throated (bare)	*Gymnopithys rufigula.*
†Black-throated (bush-lover)	*Rhopoterpe torquata.*

†Sclater's freckled Ant-Bird	*Sclateria naevia.*
†Bright-spotted Ant-Bird	,, *leucostigma.*
†Silvered Ant-Bird (?)	,, *saturata.*
†Swainson's Wood-lover Ant-Bird	*Drymophila swainsoni.*
†Cinnamon Ant-Bird	,, *cinnamomea.*
*†Black-throated Wood-lover	,, *atrothorax.*
†Pelzeln's Wood-lover (?)	,, *pelzelni.*
*†Singing Ant-Thrush (under-legged)	*Hypocnemis cantator.*
†Yellow Ant-Thrush (under-legged) (?)	,, *flavescens.*
†Scale-backed Ant-Bird	,, *poecilonota.*
†Scaly Ant-Bird	,, *lepidonota.*
†Shiny Ant-Bird	,, *leucophrys.*
†Black-faced Ant-Bird	,, *melanopogon.*
†Red-winged Ant-Bird (?)	*Phlogopsis erythroptera.*
Rufous-headed Ant-Bird	*Formicarius colma.*
Black-necked Ant-Bird	,, *nigrifrons.*
†Brown Ant-Bird	,, *crissalis.*
*†Yellow, ground Ant-Bird	*Chamaeza fulvescens.*
†Mottled Ant-Bird	*Grallaria varia.*
*†Short-tailed Ant-Bird	,, *brevicauda.*
†Blotted Ant-Bird	,, *macularia.*
*†Dwarf Ant-Bird	*Grallaricula nana.*
Conopophagidæ—	
Eared-Gnat-eater (?)	*Conopophaga aurita.*
*White-throated Gnat-eater	*Corythopis anthoides.*

(To be continued).

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Editorial.

Zoo Notes.—The following species of birds are reported as having successfully bred in the menagerie, in the "*Reports on the Additions to the Menagerie*," for July and August:

July. 2. Orange Weaver-Birds *(Euplectes franciscana).*
,, 2. Cuban Finches *(Phonipara canora).*
,, 1. Pileated Song-Sparrow *(Zonotrichia pileata).*
,, 3. Budgerigars *(Melopsittacus undulatus).*
,, 6. Carolina Ducks *(Lampronessa sponsa).*
,, 1. Mandarin Duck *(Aex galericulata).*
,, 3. G. Black-backed Gulls *(Larus marinus).*
,, 1. Barred Dove *(Geopelia striata).*
,, 2. Diamond Doves *(G. cuneata).*
,, 2. Buckley's Ground Doves *(Chamaepelia buckleyi).*
,, 1. Crested Pigeon *(Ocyphaps lophotes).*
August. 2. Chestnut-eared Finches *(Taeniopygia castanotis).*
,, 3. Parrot Finches *(Erythrura psittacea).*

August 3. Pileated Song-Sparrows *(Z. pileata).*
,, 2. Bernicle Geese *(Branta leucopsis).*
,, 1. Muscovy Duck *(Carina moschata).*
,, 2. Auriculated Doves *(Zenaida auriculata).*
,, 1. Diamond Dove *(G. cuneata).*
,, 6. Common Pheasants *(Phasianus colchicus).*
,, 4. Silver Pheasants *(Gennaeus nycthemerus).*
,, 1. N. American Turkey *(Meleagris americana).*
,, 1. Hybrid Sonnerat's—Red Jungle-Fowl *(Gallus sonnerati × G. gallus).*

OBITUARY.—We much regret to have to announce the death of another young member, viz: Lieut. C. R. S. Tyson, killed in action. To his bereaved family we tender our sincerest sympathy.

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Correspondence.

BREEDING OF HYBRID QUERIES.

SIR—Many thanks to Mr. Fulljames for his full record (on page 198 of the September number) of the THRUSH × BLACKBIRD Hybrids.

I have a lot more queries of this sort pending which I hope will receive as perfect answers as has this one. Just at present the reported crosses between members of the families *Fringillidae* and *Ploceidae* are interesting me. Can Mr. Fulljames or other readers give any further information on these and the records as shown in the list below?

BENGALESE × CANARY. Reported in *Cage Birds.*

ORANGE BISHOP × CANARY. Reported in *The Feathered World*

LINNET × CUTTHROAT. B. N. 1915. 261.

AFRICAN SILVERBILL × OLIVE CUBA FINCH. B.N. 1910. 230

Brighton, September 17, 1917. E. HOPKINSON.

BREEDING NOTES, 1917.

SIR.—I have been fairly successful with my parrakeets this season, but have had very little luck with my doves and finches.

Four very fine Pennant's Parrakeets were fully reared, but unfortunately one of them caught its foot in the netting and broke its thigh, so I had to put it out of its misery. The other three are now splendid birds. This is the first time this species has been successfully bred in my aviaries, have had many eggs during past seasons, but never any young hatched out previously.

Four nice young Black-faced Lovebirds have been fully reared and are now very fine and handsome birds.

Last season (1916) I had very good luck with Peach-faced Lovebirds *(Agapornis roseicollis)*, but this season have had no luck at all with this species, most probably owing to my having three pairs in the same aviary. They have nested and hatched out quite a lot of chicks, none of which have been reared. They proved very combative and interfered considerably with each other's nests, and I think only one pair of such quarrelsome species should be kept in each enclosure.

I have had quite a prolific season with Green and Yellow Budgerigars.

No luck with finches or doves—Diamond Doves have nested several times, but, owing to the nests being placed in very awkward positions, the eggs were upset out of their very small nests—I hope for better luck with them next season.

Luton, September 8, 1917. T. HEBB.

BREEDING BLUE BUDGERIGARS.

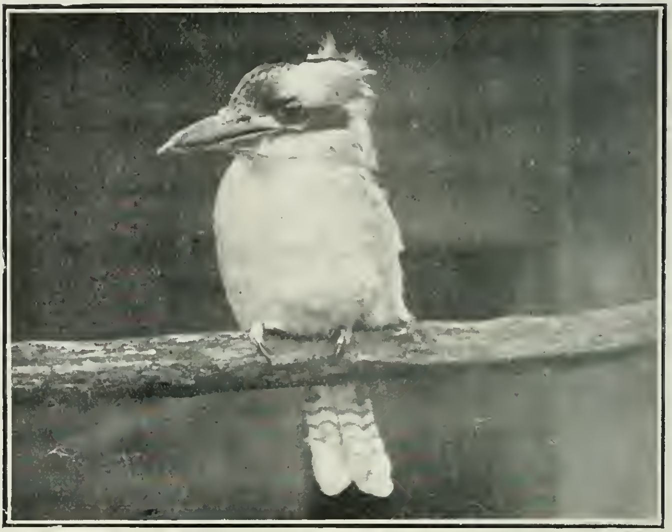
SIR.—*Re* my article in September 1916 BIRD NOTES on breeding Blue Budgerigars; I should like to add thereto, as it may be of interest to members and especially to those who have bought my young birds.

This year I turned into the breeding aviary all the young birds, except those from the pale yellow hen and the half blue-half green (first cross); I am not breeding from these birds this year, because, as far as my experience goes, I find you cannot get blue from blue-bred greens until the third generation of inbreeding to one particular blue bird; even from a blue and a half bred I do not think you can breed a blue, but their young paired together would be nearly sure to throw some Blues.

Last year a cock paired to his half sister bred three blue ones in each nest, and this same cock's two nest brothers paired with two half blue-half green hens (first cross) and not related produced only green young this year, some of these young are breeding Blues.

I have not reared any Blues from my Blue birds this year (each paired to a green, of course blue bred), several, which I think would have been blue died in the husk. The three young Blues flying are from three different pairs of greens, out of seven pairs of greens; three pairs have bred a Blue and four pairs have bred all Greens. One of the three pairs has four young in the husk now, *all Blues* (I am very anxious about them). I have had a bit of bad luck, for yesterday morning I found the Blue cock dead; there are four young in his nest, too young yet to tell colours. I hope the hen will bring them up.

Harrogate, September 27, 1917. JOHN W. MARSDEN.



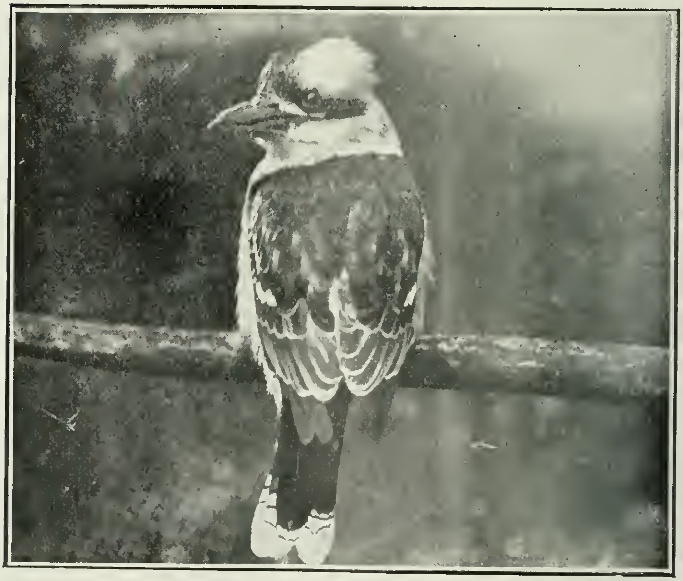


Photo Frank Dawson-Smith.

The Laughing Jackass.
(Dacelo gigas.)

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Laughing Jackass.

BY LT. F. DAWSON-SMITH.

Some birds there are which, once seen, can never be forgotten. Prominent among them I place the Laughing Jackass *(Dacelo gigas)* or giant Kingfisher. It is really quite unique. The general appearance and shape of the bird is so quaint, added to which, nobody could forget its " laugh " when once heard.

These birds (there are several species) hail from Australia, that land of strange shapes and forms of the animal kingdom. It is, I believe, found in the greatest numbers in New South Wales, where, although not associating in numbers, it is certain to be found in most places, and, in consequence is well known. It has a variety of names, of which, perhaps, " Kookaburra " and " Settlers' clock " are the most familiar. The latter title is bestowed for its habit of "laughing" at regular intervals. It is a very handsome bird and, in appearance, like a very large kingfisher. It possesses a strong, straight and powerful beak, a kind of crest which it raises when interested or excited; short rounded wings and a rather long tail. It is not a timid or shy bird and it is possessed of an inordinate curiosity, evincing the liveliest interest in anything that may strike it as being unusual, which occurs in its vicinity. On such occasions it does not fear to approach mankind, and watches what is happening with keen interest. Few people are aware of the presence of the bird unless it happens to " laugh," in which case they are forcibly aware that a Kookaburra is " watching out." It need not be troubled by scarcity of food, as it has a very varied diet. Small animals such as mice, small snakes, lizards, insects, small rats and birds are quite ordinary food. I am sorry to record the fact that the

Laughing Jackass is an extremely unpopular neighbour in the small bird and animal world, so it perhaps is fortunate that the Jackass is not a common English bird! It is a species that, besides partaking of a variety of food, is able to adapt itself to varied localities. Any place becomes home, whether forest or mountain sides, but the most frequented places are in the thick Australian Bush, with a river handy. It is also to be found in the coastal region. In these places it finds its varied food and lives its somewhat solitary life. The months of August and September are chosen for breeding and the spot selected is a hole in a tree, usually a gum tree. The nest is practically nothing at all; the female jackass deposits her white eggs on the rotten wood at the bottom of the hole in the gum tree. Woe betide an alien bird that approaches the nesting tree. The jackass is a most jealous guardian, and will attack a human being who tries to filch the eggs or young. A warm reception would meet the feathered intruder, with probably a fatal result.

The Laughing Jackass is not often imported to the British Isles. I have often tried to obtain a pair, without success, and it was only after an immensity of trouble and wearisome waiting that I eventually managed to secure *one* bird, and had the satisfaction of at last owning a really fine specimen. From the very first it proved to be remarkably tame, not only taking food from my hand, but allowing me to scratch his head and offer other caressing attentions without " getting the wind up." The bird reminds one of a toucan in many ways. In the first place it has a large beak, and, secondly, its tail keeps moving up and down in a kind of see-saw movement similar to the toucan's. It is interesting and amusing to watch my kookaburra, when handed food. He takes it gently from the hand, holding it plumb in the middle by his beak; then he makes a funny sort of " kissing " sound and chuckles, especially if the morsel happens to be a mouse. Then whack!—he bangs it on the perch first to the right, then to the left, either in order to " kill " it, or merely to break the bones before swallowing. He serves every kind of food in the same way, but his favourite is a mouse. He crunches the head first with his beak, pressing gently but firmly, and apparently with no effort; you merely hear the " crack " of the skull! Then he squeezes the body to break any bones and thus renders it an easy mouthful to swallow. After completing these preliminaries, the great kingfisher tosses his victim in the air, and adroitly catching it by the head swallows it entire, the tail being the last to disappear. If not particularly hungry, he will hold the mouse in his beak for some time the while he sings it a song of love as exemplified by kisses and laughter. His laugh is a most extraordinary sound. He lets fly with this startling cachinnation at all hours of the day, but the early morning is most noticeable. It commences with a peculiar kind of rattle which continues for some seconds and then rises on an upward note in gathering crescendo to a demoniacal " Ha, ha, ha,! Ho, ho, ho!" It is quite impossible to adequately describe it in writing. I could manage to convey a feeble idea of it vocally, but I cannot aspire to rival my "kookaburra" on his top notes. Simply it cannot be forgotten when once heard. We had an Australian staying with us on leave last year. He was considerably startled to be greeted by " Jack's " laugh. " Hullo!" he exclaimed, " a Laughing Jackass *here*!" And he felt at home at once!

Photo F, Dawson Smith.

Laughing Jackass (and Mouse).

My specimen keeps himself clean and spotless by frequent baths and sometimes sits in beatific ease fully exposed to a drenching deluge of rain. Once he caught a mouse on his own, and appeared delighted with his skill. He would certainly make short work of any weaker birds which happened to enter his aviary. I fear the only laughing would be done by the jackass! I remember reading somewhere about an aviculturist who kept a laughing jackass, which was allowed loose in the garden, with one wing clipped. It took possession of a dog kennel from which point of vantage it would suddenly spring out upon any unsuspecting birds that came near. The owner, if I remember rightly, found sundry feathers of small birds all around the kennel, and it did not need a Sherlock Holmes to assign the deaths of various small birds to the old rascal who dwelt in the kennel.

Jack is a very easy subject to photograph as he sits so still Consequently I have taken quite a number of " snaps " in various positions as can be seen from the accompanying illustrations. " Jack has been in my possession for some time and has proved a most excellent and amusing pet. It is, undoubtedly, a very hardy species. My bird has lived in an unheated outdoor aviary ever since he came to me, summer and winter alike. It is also a bird of lengthy life. I do not know the age of mine but his former owner had him for two years and he was not young then. I can account for four years and goodness knows how many preceded that! He is hale and hearty now and I hope he will " carry on " for many years to come. To me, personally, when I go home on my rare spells of " leave," I find it most exhilarating to hear his hearty laugh. I feel sure, if he were asked that classic query " Are we downhearted ?" Jack's answer would be a cheery and most emphatic " No!"

Breeding of Hybrid Cockatoos.

By Mrs. M. A. Lee.

I find it very difficult to start this article, telling, so far as I am able, the details which culminated in the successful rearing of a hybrid Roseate *(Cacatua roseicapilla)* × Lemon-crested *(C. sulphurea)* Cockatoo.

Owing to the vast amount of war-work on hand daily, I have had but little time to watch my birds, and in consequence I am unable to supply any satisfactory data respecting this most interesting nesting episode.

I had noticed that they became very savage to the other inmates of their aviary, which usually is the forerunner of nesting activity, but I thought nothing much of this, as the birds did try last year with no result. This year, however, they settled the matter for themselves by gnawing a hole through the ceiling and going up under the floor of the room above and nested there. I noticed the hen Lemon-crest spent a great deal of her time above the ceiling, but we really never thought seriously about it, until one fine day we heard the unmistakable sound of young birds being fed and we were most anxious to investigate and ascertain particulars as to the nest, etc., but short of pulling up all the floor of the room above we could arrive at nothing. I cannot say how many eggs were laid, but last year two formed the clutch; these were white in colour and of a long oval shape. I cannot give incubation period nor the age when the young birds left the nest; the episode was a very great surprise to us and this must be our excuse.

The aviary they nested in is part of an outdoor compartment-aviary, the shelters of which are formed by a building at the back of the flights, these are heated by hot-water pipes during the winter months and the birds now have their division to themselves.

The parents of the hybrid were a cock Roseate and a hen Lesser Lemon-crested Cockatoo. The father has a very damaged beak, but is perfectly healthy and fit withal. The hen bird mostly seemed to feed the young one, but I do not know whether this was because of the male bird's damaged beak or not. I regret the lack of details, but I have given all I can, not only because of war-work, but mainly owing to the whole episode occurring out of sight above the ceiling until the young bird made its exit from the nest.

I am not good at describing plumages: the young bird is a lovely pearl-grey all over the back and wings; the crest is not round like its father's, but is more horse-shoed in shape when erected, as the bird seems very fond of doing; the inner part of the crest is a buff-yellowy-pink shade, and this colour is repeated on the throat, a round patch on the cheeks, and a band across the breast. All the colour shades are rather pale at present, and will probably be much more intense as the bird matures. It is very handsome, also very tame and does not mind one going close to it.

◆

The Nesting of the Brambling.

(Fringilla montifringilla)

By R. Suggitt.

It is chiefly as a winter visitor that we in the British Islands know the Brambling, but there is some reason to believe that odd pairs have remained to breed in suitable localities in our Northern Counties. Several specimens have been noted in England in mid-April and early May, and one male has been observed in Yorkshire, as late as June 28th. This bird was probably one of a pair, nesting somewhere in the vicinity. I had the good fortune, on June 14th, 1903, to watch for about an hour, a female, which had been attracted to the garden by a pair of Bramblings in the aviary.

It may be that these very late occurrences were "escapes," but I think it is more probable that they were nesting birds. Several instances of nests having been discovered in England are recorded, but most of these records are regarded as untrustworthy. A genuine nest was found in 1866, in Scotland.

The quarrelsome disposition of the Brambling, when associated with other birds, is his gravest fault as an aviary bird, and in summer, when he has attained the full beauty of his black, brown and white plumage, he is at his very worst, some individuals being simply murderous. There are exceptions to this rule however, and the pair I now possess proves that the Brambling can behave himself, even in summer.

This pair someone had turned into the aviary, without my knowledge, in the late autumn of 1914. I expected that I should have to remove them in the following spring, but they did not become in the least aggressive, on the contrary the cock was terrorised by a White-throated Finch, who spent all his leisure chasing the poor Brambling round and round the aviary.

On June 8th, 1915, I saw the hen toying with nesting material, and two or three days later she was attempting to build a nest with hay, which I saw at once was unsuitable. I supplied her with cotton wadding, pulled into small pieces, which answered the purpose admirably, and a most beautiful nest was soon completed. It was built on the very highest branch in the aviary, immediately under the wire netting, and about nine feet from the ground. With the exception of a few pieces of wool and hay, the nest was built entirely of cotton wadding, and lined with feathers.

The first egg was laid on June 20th, and from that time onwards, the hen spent a good deal of time on the nest, so that it is difficult to say when incubation commenced in earnest. Five eggs were laid altogether, very much resembling those of the Bullfinch, blue, sparingly spotted with reddish-brown.

On the morning of July 2nd two of the eggs hatched, fourteen days from the laying of the first one; a third hatched the following day, and the remaining two were infertile. If we take from thirteen to fourteen days as the incubation period, it does not leave much margin for error.

Both the old birds protested very strongly against the tiny nestlings being examined, but the hen went back to the nest to brood immediately after I had left it. The skin of the newly hatched chick is deep pink in colour, the down pure white, long and profuse; the inside of the mouth is pink, the spurs of the tongue paler, the corners of the mouth are white.

I pin my faith to spiders as the best food for nestlings that require to be fed on live-food, but they are very difficult to collect in any quantity before the middle of August, and I had to eke out the supply with tiny mealworms. It is quite easy to provide against other birds stealing all the live-food, by placing what you are able to collect, in a small box, fixed as near to the nest as possible, and perhaps this is the only way of insuring that the proper birds get a large share of it.

I climbed on to the top of the aviary to peep into the nest on July 12th, and found only one young one remaining, it was feathering nicely and appeared to be strong and healthy, but on the 15th a Guan flew rather clumsily upwards, struck the wire near the nest, and frightened the young Brambling out. It fluttered to the foot of the tree without injury, but it either could not or would not perch. The hen tried most anxiously to persuade it to perch in the bushes, but it remained on the ground until the 17th, when torrents of rain fell, and I picked it up, saturatd with water, and completely exhausted. It revived a little when warmed, but soon collapsed again, and the hen abandoned it.

The young bird resembles the hen in plumage. The top of the head is mottled grey and black; back brown; middle of lower back white; throat and chest sandy-rufous; remainder of underparts white; tips of wing-coverts sandy, forming two wing bars.

No further attempts were made to nest that summer, both birds falling into moult shortly after the last young one died.

On June 8th, 1916, the hen commenced to build on the identical site she chose the previous year for her nest. The nest was completed on the 12th. It was built largely of cotton wadding, but other materials were more freely used than was the case in 1915. The first egg was laid on the 14th, and the hen incubated for short periods that day. On June 29th I found that three eggs were hatched and in the nest were two others, which afterwards proved to be infertile.

These three young ones grew and thrived wonderfully. They all left the nest on July 12th, and could fly and perch with ease.

The cock was quite as devoted to his offspring as the hen herself, and hunted incessantly for insects to give them. I gave them their liberty last spring.

◆

Whydahs.

By Dr. E. Hopkinson, D.S.O.

(For the meaning of abbreviations used in this list *vide* page 186)

(Continued from page 214).

Errata. In last month's instalment under "PIN-TAILED WHYDAH," p. 211, delete the four lines, "*Vidua hypocherina* ....Singv. 61." They belong to the previous species. q. v.

SHAFT-TAILED WHYDAH.

Tetraenura regia. (H.L. v. 409).

Synonomy.

I

Shaft-tailed Widow-bird.
* Shaft-tailed Bunting (Lth). * Shaft-tailed Finch.
Queen Whydah, Queen Widow.
King Whydah-bird. (occ).

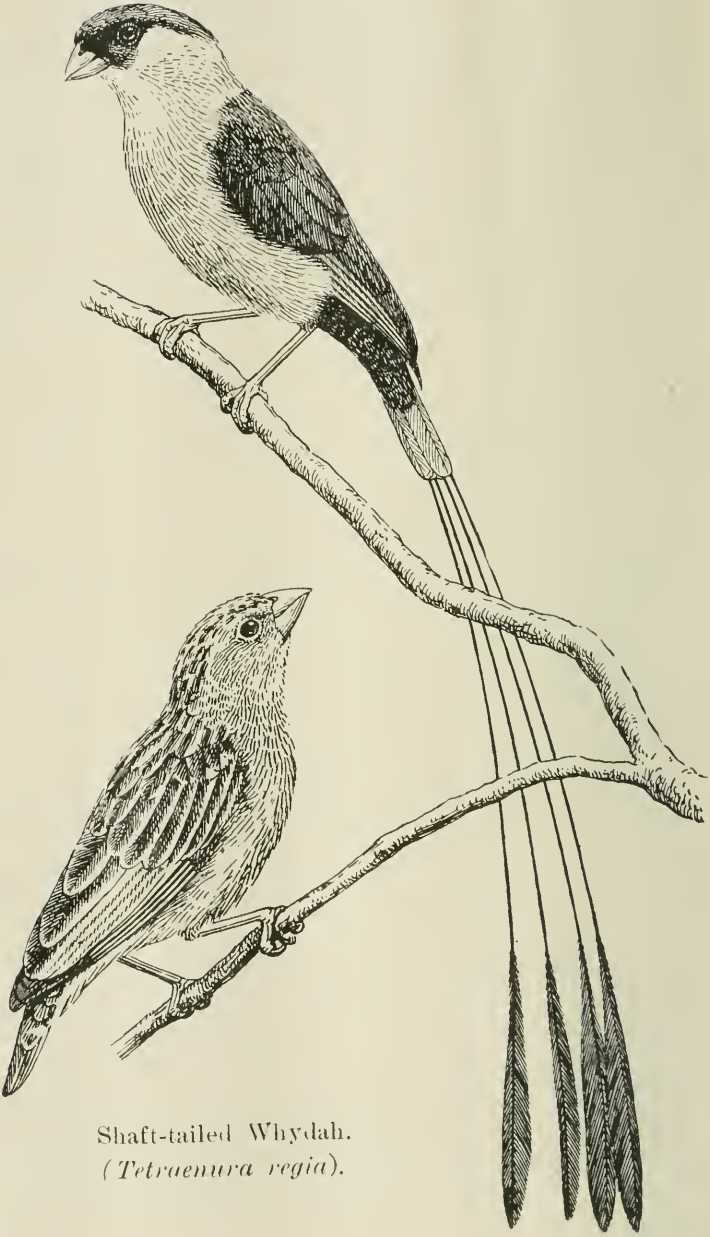
II

Emberiza regia. Linn 1766. *Fringilla regia* (VII.1817). *Vide Estrelda regia* (Lafr. 1850). *Tetraenura regia* (Reich. 1881). Cat. xiii. 209.
Vidua paradisca (Barratt. 1878). error.

References. Singv. 61. Pl. 26. B.N. vi. 5. uncol. figs. ♂ ♀. A.G.B. i. 188. Sh. iv. 21. B.S.A. i. 148. Russ. i. 212

Range. South Africa to Benguela and Zambesia.

This species is the southern representative of the Pin-tailed Whydah; the ranges of the two birds overlap in Cape Colony. As a cage-bird it is (or rather was before the war) becoming rather better known with the somewhat more frequent importation of South African birds. Of its nest and eggs Shelley says nothing, but Stark writes that, although he had never found a nest, he believed that each female built a separate one in the long grass, the cock not interfering, beyond keeping watch and ward. Mouritz, who in the "Ibis" for 1916 (p. 556) describes the birds of the Matopos, speaks of each male going about with 10 to 12 dusky followers. He also failed "in spite of diligent search" to find any nests and asks whether this species may not share the parasitical habits of the Pin-tailed Whydah.



Shaft-tailed Whydah.
(*Tetraenura regia*).

Mr. Teschemaker in A.M. 1910. writes (p. 90) that he had been informed that this species had been bred in confinement by a German residing in Sydney(Australia).

◆

FISCHER'S SHAFT-TAILED WHYDAH.

Linura fischeri. (H.L. v. 409).

Synonomy.

II

Linura fischeri. Reichen. 1882. *Vidua fischeri.* (Shelley. 1886).

Range. N.E. and E. Africa.

References. Reichenow. J. fur Ornith. 1882. Pl. ii. fig. i. Sh. iv. 13.

This Whydah appears to be unknown as a cage-bird and I also find but little recorded on its wild life,—of the nest and eggs, nil. Its chief difference from the Pin-tailed and Shaft-tailed Whydahs is that the four narrow elongated tail feathers are in this species buff, not black.

◆

PARADISE WHYDAH.

Steganura paradisea. (H.L. v. 409).

Synonomy.

I

Paradise Widow. * Widow of Paradise.
Whidah Bird (Lth). * Whidaw Widow. * Widah Bunting.
* Red-breasted Long-tailed Finch (Edw).
Broad-shafted Whidah Bird. * Broad-shafted Whydah-finch (Sw).
" Shaft-tailed Whydah." occ. dealers' name, teste Gedney.

II

Emberiza paradisea. Linn. 1766. *Fringilla paradisea* (Vll. 1817). *Steganura pardisea.* (B.p. 1850). Cat. xiii. 211. *Vide Estrelda paradisea.* (Lafr. 1850). *Steganura sphenura.* B.p. 1850. *Steganura verreauxi.* (Antin. and Salvad. 1873).

References. Butler. F.F. 282. Plate. ♂ ♀. Cassell. 400. Plate. ♂. Sw. i. Pl. II. ♂. Russ. i. 202. Pl. 7. ♂. Singv. 63. Pl. 28. Sh. iv. 25. B.S.A. i. 149. Butler. i. 188. Gedney. ii. 128.

Range. Tropical Africa generally and south to Cape Colony.

This freely imported and well known bird is, I think, the showiest of all the Whydahs I know. When in full colour the males both wild and in cage or aviary are as noticeable and striking as any bird, with their long flaunting tails and ruddy collars and breasts. Many (too many) years ago I remember being much impressed at one of the Shows by seeing 25 males all in full plumage and in perfect condition exhibited all together in one large wire cage. In the Gambia they are quite common and I have brought a good many home at different times. In the rains they are very noticeable, but at other seasons, when they have shed their breeding plumage, they have to be looked for.

Specimens from South Africa are as a rule rather larger than those, the most commonly imported, from West, and also are rather lighter in colour as far as the ruddy collar and throat is concerned; such birds when imported are sometimes advertised as "Golden-collared-Whydahs," though the actual colour scarcely suggests that metal.

This variation in size and colour is, however, not distinctive of S. African birds, for in the *Ibis* for 1905, (p. 317) similar "yellow-collared" birds are described from the Egyptian Sudan. Apparently every grade of variation is to be found, and division into sub-species of the birds from different parts of Africa has not yet been considered necessary.

The nest is not known, but the egg is described by Shelley as "grey, so very closely spotted with black that the pale ground colour is scarcely visible." The only record of its breeding is that of Russ, on which Stark writes, "Dr. Russ succeeded "in getting it to breed in confinement, by turning a cock with "three hens into a large room. In November a sort of double "nest was built on the wire bottom of a high hanging cage ". . . The first nest when examined contained three dead "young ones, the other a single living one, which was fed by "two females. The male did not trouble himself about either "nest or young." A fuller account of this event will be found in Butler's "Foreign Finches."

◆

LONG—TAILED WHYDAH.

Diatropura progne. (H.L., v. 410).

Synonomy.

I

Long-tailed Widow-bird; Long-tailed Weaver.
Great-tailed Whydah, Great-tailed Widow-bird, Kaffir Great-tailed Whydah.
"Kaffir Chief" (English in S.A.); "Kaffir Fink" occasionally.
"Isa-kabuli," the Zulu name; "Sakabula Bird," the common S. African corruption of this name.
Giant Whydah.
Twelve-tailed Whydah, occ. dealers' name.
Brown-shouldered Whydah, Orange-shouldered Whydah, Epaulet Whydah-bird.
* Caffrarian Grosbeak.
* Orange-shouldered Bunting.

II

Emberiza procne. Bodd. 1783. ("progne. Bodd" /Shelley).
Chera procne (Gray. 1849). and B.M. Cat.
Chera procne (Layard. 1867), *Vidua progne* (Schl. 1872).
Coliuspasser procne (Shelley. 1886).
Coliipasser procne (Sh. 1896), *Coliopasser procne*, (Stark, 1900).
Coliuspasser progne (Sh. B. of Afr. iv. 1905).
Diatropura progne (Reichen. 1904) and H.L. v. 1909.
Loxia caffra. Gm. 1788. *Fringilla caffra* (Licht. 1823).
Chera caffra (Cab. 1850).

Emberiza longicauda. Gm. 1788. *Fringilla longicauda* (VII. 1817).
Vidua longicauda (Cuv. 1817).
Emberiza imperialis. Shaw. 1796.
Vidua phaenicoptera. Sw. 1837.

REFERENCES. Butler. F.F. 286. Plate. ♂. ♀. Russ. i. 213. Pl. 7. ♂. Singv. 65. Pl. 29. B.S.A. i. 139. fig. Sh. iv. 32. Butler. i. 189. Cassell. 401. Gedney. ii. 130.

RANGE. S.E. Africa (E. Cape Colony to Transvaal).

In the genera so far dealt with the lengthening of the tail is confined to the four central feathers, but in this and all the others in which elongation occurs the whole tail is affected, though the central ones become the longest, the length of the rest diminishing regularly and gradually from within outwards.

A good deal more is known about the breeding habits of this Whydah than is the case with most of its relations, and it has also been bred in captivity, the first breeder being Mr. Teschemaker in 1909, who gives a full account of his success in A.M. 1910. p. 81. In this case the male by force of circumstances had only one wife, but this departure from the normal did not interfere with the result, three fine young birds. The nest (Mr. Teschemaker writes) was cup-shaped and placed on the ground well-hidden in the foliage growing in an artificial marsh which had been arranged in the aviary. The male did not attempt to feed the female while she was sitting, but the breeder thinks that he did take some share in the feeding of the young after they were hatched. The whole account, however, should be read. Commencing from the very start every episode is chronicled, the mating, the love-song and dance, in which the male poses "erect and on tip-toe before the female, the long "feathers of the neck erected as a hood, and emitting that "weird long-drawn note which I can only describe as a combination of hissing and spluttering." This quotation having hopelessly broken the thread of the sentence, I will leave it as it stands and go on to the accounts of the nesting habits in a wild state.

Of these Stark gives full details and describes the nest as "an oval domed structure, with a wide side entrance, roughly "woven out of fine grass lined with the flowering tops of "grass or reeds. It is generally placed a few inches off the "ground, in the centre of a tuft of grass, attached by its sides "to many grass stalks, the blades and tops of which are bent "down and tied together to form an additional concealment "and protection." The eggs, as described by Stark, are white or bluish-white closely marked with small spots and dashes of dark brown and slate-grey. Shelley quotes another similar description by Mr. Haagner. Mr. Teschemaker also describes the eggs laid by this bird, and his description agrees well with previous ones by South African observers.

◆

DELAMERE'S LONG-TAILED WHYDAH.

Diatropura delamerei. (H.L. v. 410).

Synonomy.

Coliuspasser delamerei. Sh. 1903, and B. Afr. iv. 35.

Diatropura progne delamerei. (Reichen. 1904).

RANGE. Equatorial Africa (Kikuyu and Kenia).

This race of the Long-tailed Whydah is to be chiefly distinguished from the typical form by the much longer tail feathers of the male when in full colour: up to 23 inches, as against an average 18 and maximum 19.5 in *D. progne.* It is so far unknown to British aviculture, as is also the next, the third and last member of this genus given in the Hand List.

◆

BENGUELA LONG-TAILED WHYDAH.

Diatropura ansorgei. Neumann. 1908. (H.L. v. 410).

RANGE. S.W. Africa (Benguela).

(To be continued).

Breeding of Hybrid Chestnut-breasted Finch X Silverbill.

By Herbert E. Bright.

At the request of our Editor I am writing a short account of the successful breeding and rearing of four young Hybrids, the result of the mating of an Australian Chestnut-breasted Finch *(Munia castaneithorax)*, and an Indian Silverbill hen *(Aidemosyne malabarica)*. It was quite an unexpected event, as the Chestnut-breast was an old bird that I have had four or five years and he did not seem very lively, in fact I thought this summer would probably be his last. He had moulted rather badly, coming quite dark on the underparts below the breast and looked a most dilapidated specimen and certainly a most unlikely breeder. However, he went through a complete moult after being turned into a large out-door aviary in the spring and smartened up considerably.

The next I saw of him he was following about an unmated Silverbill hen that had been kindly given to me with some Avadavats by a fellow member, Mr. Calvocaressi. She had not long been turned out and had numerous admirers, the most persistent at that time being a Tricolor Mannikin, though she had previously deserted a Magpie Mannikin. Eventually the old Chestnut-breast won the day and they built the usual domed nest in an apple-tree against the back wall of the aviary. Eggs were laid and all went well as I soon heard a chorus of young voices calling for food. Four young were succesfully reared, the last young one leaving the nest two days after the first one appeared. They were pretty little birds resembling the Silverbill in appearance at first except for the tinge of red in their tails.

Now (Oct. 29th) that they have nearly completed the moult they have changed considerably. Two of them have developed a mark like a Cherry Finch underneath the beak and have cream breasts lightly laced with red-brown markings and almost red tails on the upper side. One has only a faint bib mark, but has deeper breast markings and quite red tail; the fourth has no breast markings, being light fawn-color from the bib downwards. Lower breast and underparts are cream color in all of them. The heads, necks, and sides of wings are much the same as the Silverbill, but rather deeper brown. The young were reared almost entirely on grass seeds and green food, mostly fine grass. The old birds used to come down and pick amongst the grass but seldom took the live ants' eggs which were thrown down for general use. The parents looked after them for a long time after they were reared. Quite late they started nesting again, and, I thought they were sitting as the hen had laid, but one very cold wet morning I picked her up off the ground almost dead and egg bound, and unfortunately she died before we could do anything for her. I was very sorry as I had hoped for some more of these pretty little birds. The old Chestnut-breast is quite lively and I will try and provide him with a similar mate next year. He used to dance and sing to one of his own young ones later on.

Breeding of Hybrid Magpie Mannikin X Silverbill.

By Herbert E. Bright.

At one time, a year or so ago, I had bred so many Magpie Mannikins that I got rather tired of them and disposed of all but one pair. That winter the hen died, so, not wishing to be entirely without a pair, I bought a hen, which I saw advertised, and turned the two birds out in the large aviary in the spring expecting to breed a lot more.

They went about together at first, but a little later joined company with a hen Silverbill and a hen Bronze-wing and there was a great deal of nest building and squabbling, in which all four used to take part, both the hens and both the cocks disputing for possession of the various nests, so that I thought nothing could come of it all.

My man told me one evening he thought he could get me a Silverbill cock so I told him to go and bring it. Next day we turned it out and waited to see what would happen. The Silverbills took no notice of each other and I began to fear we had made matters worse and introduced further complications in the shape of another hen. This proved to be the case, as I later on saw both silverbills and bronze-wing all going into the same nest and sitting there, but they soon got tired of playing at nesting and drifted apart; eventually a Magpie Mannikin *(Amauresthes fringilloides)* and Silverbill *(A. cantans)*, the other Magpie Mannikin and Bronze-wing, and a Chestnut-breast and Silverbill all going to nest properly. The Magpie Mannikin and Silverbill built a neat well hidden domed nest in a thick growth of hops, just by a pair of Diamond Sparrows, who never interfered with them in any way, though both had young at the same time. The young were reared almost entirely on grass seeds and green-food, as were the four young Chestnut-breast × Silverbill hybrids, although plent yof ants' eggs were supplied. They seemed to be very fond of sprouting grass seeds which were thrown on the ground. I very nearly lost the young by frightening them out of the nest before they were ready to leave, and only one actually lived, though two flew out. I was pruning some privet which had grown through the top of the aviary wire, not thinking the young were nearly ready to fly. I suppose I went too near the nest and the noise frightened them, anyhow two, not fully fledged young birds, went fluttering out right to the far corner of the aviary. There was nothing to be done but "wait and see" if the old birds would find them, which they soon did, and tried hard to induce them to come back nearer the nest, but they remained where they had landed in some bushes and after a very wet night I hardly expected to see either of them again, but discovered one the next day, the other had disappeared. The young one had a somewhat precarious existence for some time, as it used to persist in following the four young Chestnut-breast hybrids about, and they resented its presence, making things very unpleasant for it for a day or two. They were considerably older and stronger. The cock Magpie Mannikin fed it for a day or two and then left it, and in the end it used to chase the old cock Chestnut-breast about and called so loudly for food when he was feeding his own young ones, that I have seen him feed it several times after trying to drive it away at first. At a very early age it used to feed itself on seed and somehow managed to thrive and grow into a strong bird.

It does not resemble the other hybrids in the least, not being nearly so pretty and much darker in colour. It has now moulted out and improved somewhat in appearance. The head, back, sides, and tail are dark brown, almost black; underparts, and breast creamy-white; it has a curious band of light brown, which runs from the side of the neck and breast round to the thighs on both sides; otherwise it is not a striking bird in any way. The beak is black and much smaller than a Magpie Mannikin's, and it is much smaller in body also. This pair nested again, but, although I think they had young I have not seen any result, which is hardly to be wondered at considering the cold wet and stormy weather we have had.

◆

Weavers.

By W. Shore Baily.

Among the most interesting of our aviary birds are the Weavers and Whydahs. Either group has a great deal to recommend it, and to those aviculturists, whose aviaries are large enough to give these birds a chance of breeding, I know of none so desirable. The long flowing tails of the male Whydahs and their curious courtships would probably attract some of our members, whilst the brilliant plumage and vivaceous ways of the cock Weavers would perhaps equally appeal to others. I hardly know which is my favourite group. I have succeeded to some extent in breeding some species of both groups, but have also had numerous failures. These failures have probably added to my interest in them. One never properly values what is easy to come by, and no one can say that it is always an easy matter to breed any of the Weavers and Whydahs. Many nests may be built, eggs may be laid and young ones hatched, but to get them reared to maturity is a very different matter. In ten years, from a dozen or more varieties of Weavers, I have, I believe, fully reared eight young ones only. Nearly all of the species kept have nested, nine different species have laid eggs, seven have hatched young, and four have brought their young ones to maturity. Their willingness to attempt to breed is, I think, to the aviculturist, one of their chief charms, as even after repeated failures with them, one continues to hope for success. The following description of the nests and eggs of those that have nested here may be of interest.

The VIDUINE WEAVERS are in my opinion the handsomest and at the same time the most free breeders. It is difficult to imagine more beautiful birds than male Crimson-crowned and Orange Bishops.

The NAPOLEON WEAVER *(Pyromelana afra)* probably the easiest to breed of all the weavers, builds a nest in a bush (vide B.N. vol. vi., N.S.). Selecting a fork it connects the two twigs with stout grass, and from this weaves a purse-shaped nest of no great depth; the front is left entirely open and is generally a true circle about two and a half inches in diameter. Four eggs are laid, white with a few brown spots. Dr. Butler, probably quoting from Russ, describes them as pale bluish green, which is certainly a mistake, as I have white-spotted eggs in my collection from several hens.

The closely allied TAHA WEAVER *(P. taha)* builds a similar nest (see B.N. vol. vi., N.S.) but suspends it from growing reeds—where these are available; the material used as with the last variety, has been, with me, long grass, and no lining has been added. The eggs are similar to those of *P. afra* but slightly larger.

Another closely allied species is a bird, that for want of knowledge of its true name I call the SPOTTED-WINGED WEAVER. This bird, when mated with a cock Taha, built a typical nest in a wild convolvulus (see B.N. vol. vii, N.S.) and she has since built similar nests in a clump of ivy, and in a box bush. Her eggs, three in number on each occasion, were similar to those of the last two species, but were about one third larger, the bird itself being considerably larger than either the Taha or Napoleon hens.

The Orange Weaver's nest is, as a rule, much more flimsy in construction, and more globular in shape. I have seen these nests so loosely woven that the eggs fell through the bottom. These are generally two in number and are a rich glossy blue, looking almost as if they had been varnished. They have not hatched young with me (see B.N. vol. vii, N.S.).

The CRIMSON-CROWNED WEAVER *(P. flammiceps)* has not nested with me, but last year a cock mated with a hen Whydah (see B.N. vol. vii, N.S.). I can't say whether the cock was the architect and builder of this nest, but it is quite possible, as it was much of the same type as the other Weavers.

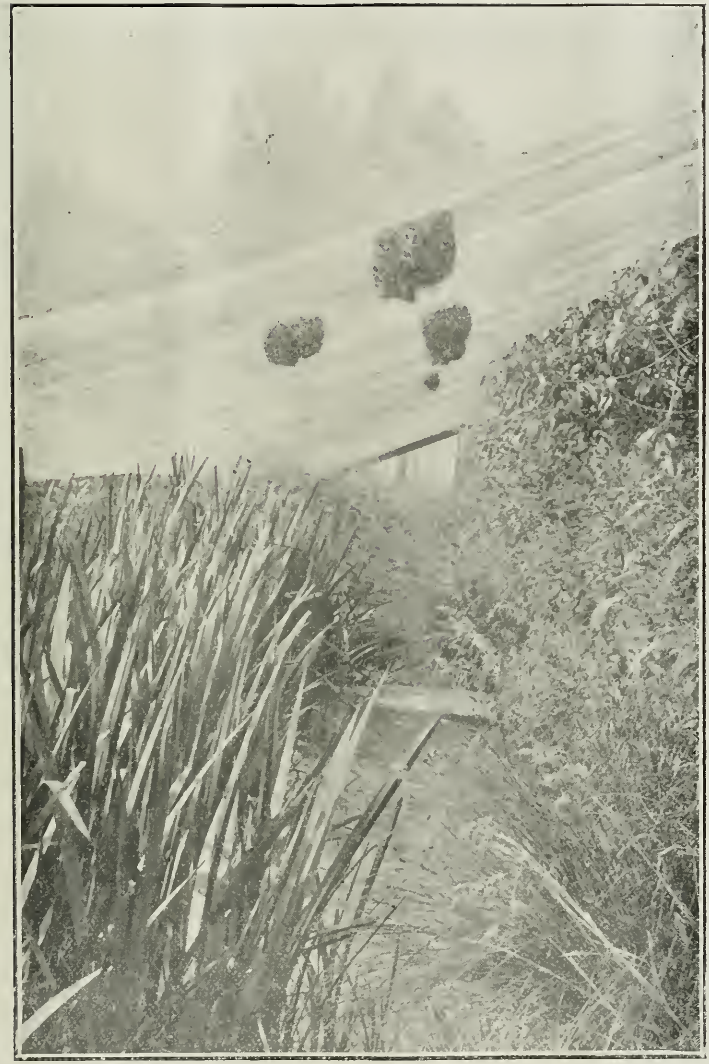


Photo W. Shore Baily.

Abyssinian Weavers' Nests over the Water.
Boyers House Aviaries.

The GRENADIER WEAVER *(P. oryx)* I have never been lucky enough to possess, but its nest and eggs are described in B.N. vol. iii, N.S., by Mr. de Quincey Quincey who was successful in breeding it that year.

The RED-BILLED WEAVER *(Q. quelea)* probably the most freely imported of all the Weavers, has built scores of nests with me, but, as far as I know, has not got as far as eggs. This is rather a timid bird, and allows itself to be driven from its nest by birds much smaller than itself. For instance, this summer a Zebra Finch twice laid eggs in one of their nests and brought off a troop of young ones. The nest is usually hung up between two twigs, and resembles a tea cup on its side, and is about the same size. A slight depression at the back keeps the eggs and young from falling out.

Photo W. Shore Baily.

Redbilled Weaver's Nest used by Zebra Finches.

(To be continued).

Breeding of Hybrid Finches.

By Miss E. Lucas.

The following account of my one and only successful breeding experience may be of interest.

To begin at the beginning! About two and a half years ago I bought a pair of Bar-breasted Firefinches *(Lagonosticta rufopicta)* for a few shillings as the hen had a broken leg. I put them in my avairy and nesting operations were commenced at once, several clutches of eggs were laid, but all were infertile. Early last summer the cock bird died.

This year I was not able to turn my birds out till early in July, as I had them all the winter and spring in a birdroom in London. As soon as I put them in the aviary the hen Bar-breasted Firefinch and a " widower " Common Firefinch *(L. senegala)* started breeding in a nest box in my aviary shelter. The hen laid twice, but the eggs were infertile. At the beginning of September she laid again; about a fortnight or three weeks later I thought I would remove the eggs, as the weather being very chilly I was afraid the hen might take cold if I let her sit longer. On putting my hand into the nest I felt, to my surprise, something moving and found two youngsters, hatched I should say two days before. In spite of all the damp and cold they have, so far, done well and are now (October 14th) flying about the aviary, having left the nest about a week ago.

No special food was supplied, and all the parent birds had access to were the usual seeds and what insects they could capture in the aviary.

At present they resemble the Common Firefinch when young—pale fawn, with some bright crimson at the base of the tail.

If they continue to do well I will state a little later how they develop.

◆

Correspondence.

REARING OF BLUE-WINGED GRASS PARRAKEETS, ETC.

Sir.—Has the Blue-winged Grass Parrakeet *(Neophema venusta)* been bred before? I have four fine young birds fully reared.

I had rather bad luck with Hooded Parrakeet, as the hen died suddenly when the two young were only half grown. Fortunately the cock is still feeding them, and I have two other pairs nesting.

The Giuana Parrotlets' eggs vanished; whether they or the mice ate them, I do not know.

Any of our members, by the way, who have Grass Parrakeets of any species should take the greatest possible care of them, and give them every opportunity for breeding. All the members of the family are becoming rapidly extinct, and if aviculturists are not more awake over them than they were over the Turpuoisine and *P. pulcherrimus* they will go the same way.

Havant, October 28, 1917. (The Marquis of) TAVISTOCK.

[*N. venusta* has been bred, prior to 1914 we think, but at the moment of going to press are unable to give details.—Ed.]

NOTES OF THE SEASON, 1917.

Sir.—Since the last report of the doings of my birds, a few more young have been reared, but the weather is now really vile! cold, wet and very stormy, and I am putting the birds into their winter quarters.

Three more young Long-tailed Grassfinches are on the wing, and one young Gouldian Finch was similarly exercising itself yesterday.

Two more young Diamond Doves (six in all from one pair this season) are well reared. Another young Talpacoti Dove, and also a Red Mountain Dove are fully reared.

One young Peach-faced Lovebird is on the wing and I think there are others still in the nest.

The Cockateels also have fully reared three more fine young birds.

A cock Zebra Finch has mated with a hen Red-headed Finch, and they are incubating a clutch of eggs, but I fear it is too late for any result.

Cressington Park, October 12, 1917. H. BRIGHT

[Extracted from a private letter.—Ed.]

YELLOW BUDGERIGARS FROM GREEN, ETC.

Sir.—I have recently had two young Yellow Budgerigars from a pair of Green parents. They are very fine young ones too, a very clear yellow, From a Green cock mated to a Yellow hen I have had several broods, all Greens, this I can quite understand, as I think its usual, but not the former.

I, too, am a little puzzled over one of the hybrid St. Helena Seed-eater × Canary being pure grey in colour just like a Grey Singingfinch (it is a hen), the other three young hybrids are cocks and just like their father, in fact they would be taken for pure St. Helena Seed-eaters by anyone unacquainted with the facts. The young hen of neither parent, someone suggested it might be a throw back to a wild canary!

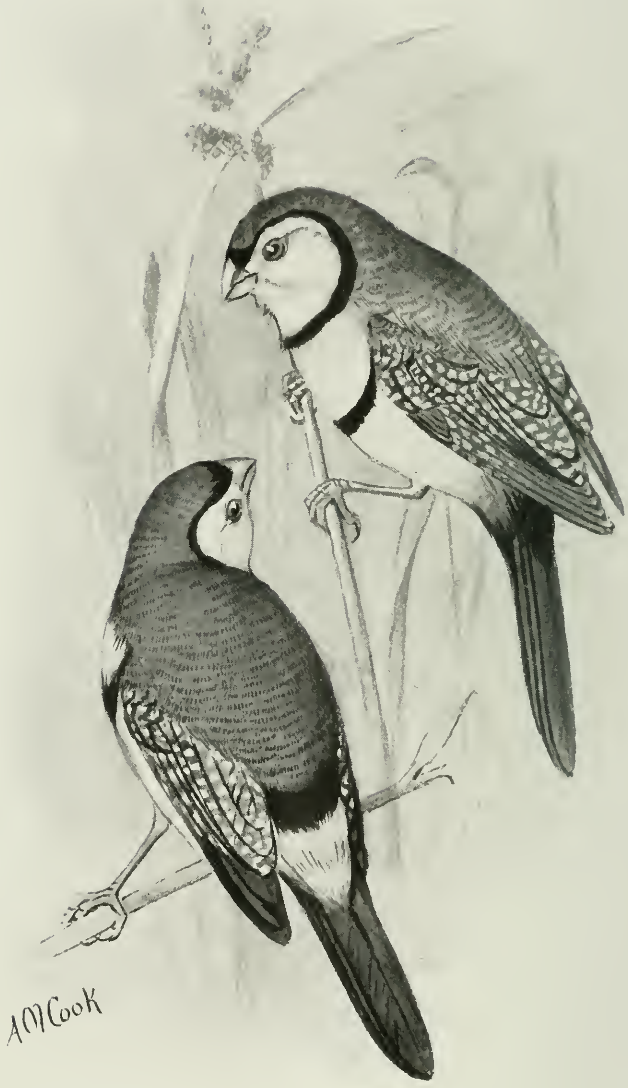
Crouch End, October 8, 1917. MRS. CHATTERTON

[It is not unique, though by no means common, for Green parents to throw an occasional yellow youngster. It would be of interest if Mrs. Chatterton would state whether there are any indulating marks in its plumage. Also are the eyes pink? If so it would be a lutino.

Re. Seed-eater Hybrids: We do not think the grey coloured hybrid much out of the way. We have seen several cocks of this cross, which have been a pleasing combination of grey and white, with only slight tinges of yellow here and there in their plumage.—Ed.]

Obituary.

With great regret we record that our member Mr. G. E. Haggie was killed in action (Flanders front) on 4th ult. He became a member in 1910, was a keen aviculturist, and took a great interest in the work and progress of the Club. The writer mourns the loss of a personal friend. We extend our sincere sympathy to his family in their bereavement.—W. T. P.



Double-banded Finches.
Top Fig. *S. annulosa.*
Lower Fig. *S. bichenovi.*

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Bicheno's and Ringed Finches,

(Stictoptera bichenovii and annulosa).

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

These two beautiful finches are mostly advertised and sold indiscriminately as Bicheno's. In the writer's opinion much better popular names for them would be White-rumped Bicheno's *(S. bichenovii)* and Black-rumped Bicheno's *(S. annulosa)*, if aviculturists would agree to generally adopt them, if not, a mere multiplicity of names would simply add to the confusion. The white and black rumps are practically the only difference in the plumage of the two species.

The plumage patterns of the two species are clearly shewn in Mrs. Cook's beautiful drawing (Mrs. Cook again has helped the Club in this year of stress, by doing it gratis, and we tender her sincere thanks.—Ed.) and very little plumatic description will be required.

The general characteristics of the two species are also similar, and need not be given separately.

DESCRIPTION—*S. bichenovii*—Upper plumage lightish brown; a black band crosses the rump, upper tail-coverts white; tail black; greater wing-coverts and flights dark blackish-brown, thickly spotted with white; forehead dark blackish-brown, which is continued as a border to the sides of crown, hind face, and across the lower throat; a second band of similar colour crosses the breast from shoulder to shoulder; cheeks and throat white; remainder of lower plumage buffish-white; under tail-coverts black; beak and feet dark bluish-grey; iris black.

The difference between the sexes is so infinitesimal that sorting them out correctly is largely a matter of chance, but once a true pair is secured the owner can usually tell which is which. The hen is *slightly* slimmer and smaller, her beak more wedge-shaped, and her appearance and deportment more effeminate.

S. annulosa.—Similar to *bichenovii*, but has the rump and upper tail-coverts black.

RANGE: *S. bichenovii*—North-east and Eastern Australia. *S. annulosa*—Northern and North-west Australia.

BICHENO'S FINCH.—This is a delicate species as a new arrival, but, when once acclimatised not more so than the popular Gouldian Finch. It has been known to aviculture for many years and was bred by the late Mr. Weiner, who found that the young were easily reared. This has not been by any means the general experience, and it cannot, except in isolated instances, be called a prolific species. Many hens are lost from egg-binding during wet, inclement seasons; there are also trying losses from pneumonia and other causes. In the writer's aviary young have never been fully reared; though they have nested and had eggs, but the death of the hens has usually stopped results. In one instance young were hatched out and lived to be nearly fledged, but at the critical moment cold rains became prevalent, the hen died and the male bird left his offspring to perish; others, however, have been more fortunate, and isolated instances of success have been fairly numerous. Our member Mrs. Howard Williams, has bred them rather freely in a roomy flight cage. She obtained an acclimatised pair, which went to nest at once in a rush nest, and successfully brought off a brood. The late Dr. H. Hetley also met with similar success, one or more broods being successfully reared in a large flight cage in one of his sitting rooms.

Our member, Mr. L. W. Hawkins had the happy experience of finding them quite prolific in his aviary. A pair built a nest in a coco-nut husk, hanging high up in one of his aviaries using hay and a few feathers. Here, during the same season they successfully reared three broods of two, four and three young ones respectively. Two other young were also reared by

Zebra Finches, which hatched the eggs, together with three of their own and successfully brought up all the young viz: two Bicheno's and three Zebra Finches.

These charming birds are not wild even as new arrivals, and become tame and confiding almost at once, whether the aviary be large or small. In a naturally planted aviary they spend a largish portion of their time on the ground, and feed largely on the seeds of grasses and other weeds forming herbage among the bushes. They eat white and Indian millet seed. also canary seed freely, but will leave them all alone so long as there is a millet spray in the aviary. The general experience is that they need no extra food when rearing young, but if there is not a large supply of green food growing in the aviary (grass and other weeds) this should be supplied fresh twice daily. They are active vivacious birds, but I have never detected their song; their call note is toy-trumpet like, very similar to that of the Zebra Finch, but less vigorous, with one or two rather high plaintive notes thrown in. They have never been really cheap or in very large numbers on the market, though occasionally fairly numerous consignments have come to hand.

This species has been crossed with the Zebra Finch and a pleasing and striking hybrid was the result. One of this cross was exhibited at the Crystal Palace Show some years ago, which had I think, been bred in Germany or Belgium.

As the two species are so similar in their general habits and economy, it is needless for me to quote details of Nesting of the Ringed Finch, etc., as it would be merely repeating what is written above. except for the name of the bird, so I will close this article with a quotation from Mr. A. J. Campbell's "Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds," describing the nesting of the Ringed Finch in a state of nature as under:

> " This pretty finch was only seen near the Fitzroy River, where it was " breeding during February and March. By a close observation of the " materials used it is possible to determine to which species of finch the " nest belongs. The Ringed Finch usually chooses a site in some drooping " branch about ten feet from the ground. In the case of those examined " the outer covering was invariably very coarse—dead grass loosely woven " together—but the lining was of the finest silver grass, and a marvel of " neatness. Six eggs form the clutch. Although some were perfectly " white, one clutch from which I caught the bird had a faint bluish tinge, " similar to those of the Chestnut-eared Finch."*

* Zebra Finch,

Breeding of Swainson's Lorikeets.

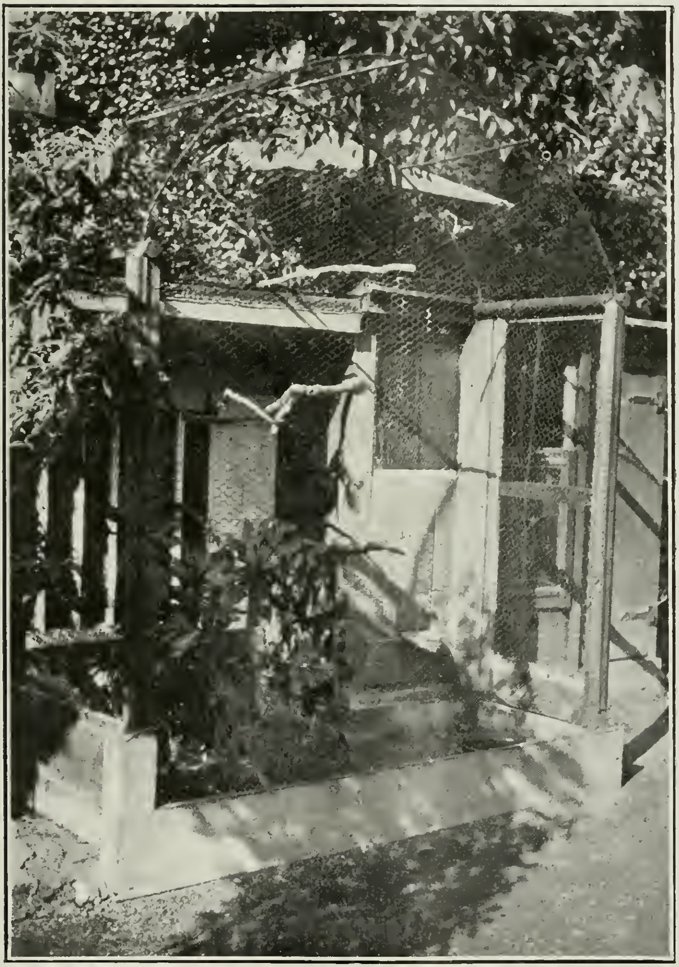
By E. R. Phillips.

While in London last January I purchased a pair of Swainson's Lorikeets *(Trichoglossus swainsoni).*

Upon my return to Ireland I put them in an out-door aviary (12ft. long, 4ft. broad and 7ft. high), which includes the covered-in portion. A nest barrel was hung four feet from the ground, which they immediately took possession of. At the ena of February the hen was sitting closely upon two eggs, but shortly afterwards one of the eggs was thrown out of the nest. About March 25th a young bird was hatched, but while the parent sat closely she refused to feed, and the young one I found dead a few days afterwards. They went to nest again almost immediately and two young birds were hatched about April 28th, but again they did not feed. They had been supplied up to this date with the ordinary milk-sop, containing malt extract, honey, Mellin's food; the changes being run upon sponge cakes and tea biscuit. There was always a dish of canary seed in the aviary. I was greatly disappointed with this bad luck, and took away the nest barrel, with the hope that they would think matters over and mend their ways.

The hen showed signs very shortly of looking for some nesting position, so I returned the barrel. By June 7th she was sitting again, and I heard the young bird about July 6th. When the time was drawing near I changed the feeding somewhat by giving the usual milk-sop in one dish, and honey in another dish, while I added to the seed *menu* sunflower seed, as I had noticed that they had taken the seed from time to time in the past. After some days the life of the young bird still being proved by its noise I chanced an inspection, and found that one egg was badly damaged, but the chick was looking strong and healthy. I continued to feed in the same way but added at least a handful of sunflower seed each day, which was always taken.

On July 22nd the young bird was doing well, very ugly, and reminded one of the illustrations of prehistoric animals. The eyes were open, and the feathers were just pushing through.



Mr. E. R. Phillips' Lorikeet Aviary.

July 29th, feathers were showing on the head, breast and shoulders, the rest of the body being still bare. The young one seemed very active and was seen to look out of the nest-barrel from time to time. I could also see, without going into the aviary, the hen lying on her side, and the youngster seemed to play with her, pushing its head through her feathers. During the feeding there was a good deal of noise, in which the cock bird seemed to do his share. August 4th, the feathers were increasing upon the head, and the primary feathers of the tail were showing growth, but the body was still without covering. Sunflower seed was still being devoured at the rate of about two handfuls a day, and ripe gooseberries were greatly appreciated. The young bird could be seen to walk about the nest barrel in a very clumsy fashion. August 18th, the youngster was well covered with feathers except the back of the neck, the tail being about an inch and a half long. The beak, which up to now was brown, is, at this date (Nov. 1), just showing a tinge of red. It continually appeared at the entrance of the nest-barrel, but if anyone came near, promptly returned. The eye is quite dark, but very bright. It is wonderful how beautifully clean the nest-barrel is always kept.

September 1st, I went into the aviary to have a look at the young bird in the barrel; it was evidently frightened, and flew right out through the enclosure into the flight. With the exception of the length of the tail, the colour of the eye and beak, it was the same as its parents, but the colourings appear to be far brighter; it certainly was a lovely bird. For the first two or three days it was very shy, and the father seemed to have taken full charge of it. It was most amusing and interesting to see the cock bird getting his charge into the enclosure for the night, where they both took the shelter of the nest barrel, the hen staying outside on one of the perches. The cock bird now became quite jealous of the mother bird, and if she came near, he promptly attacked her. He became so vicious that at last I had to separate her by placing her in a cage insde the aviary. If this step had not been taken I feel sure he would have killed her. Even when I was removing her, the father and the youngster flew on to my hand and attacked her. After the young bird had left the nest fourteen days I took it away and placed it in an aviary at the other end of the garden in the company of a hen Bauer's Parakeet, a Rosella and a pair of Necklace Doves. It settled down, but the noise early in the morning that he made in answer to its father's calls was distracting. By this time it was very tame and would eat anything from the hand. At the side of this aviary I had a big bank of tobacco plants, and some of the flowers were growing through the wires; the young Lorikeet spent a considerable time sucking nectar from the flowers, milk-sop was taken freely, and it would stand on my hand to suck honey out of a spoon. By now the bird is just the same as the parents, except that the plumage is so much brighter and has such a beautiful gloss. I feel certain it is a cock bird, as it is larger than the hen, and the beak has a stronger appearance. This distinction exists between the parents.

When the young bird had been apart from the parents two or three days I was feeding it through the wires with some ripe pear, and it suddenly, with a loud shriek, dashed across the aviary. I was surprised at this, and upon looking round in the distance I saw a hawk. The instinct of birds is certainly wonderful, and one only thinks that if we had known our enemies, even at close quarters, how much better prepared we would have been for this gigantic world-war. How strange that the lower creation should have this perception which we have lacked!

The notes that I have made have in nearly all cases been week-end notes, as I am continually away.

The parents are now quite reconciled, except that the cock bird only, occupies the barrel at night. One week recently while I was away, my wife found that the cock bird was lying on his side in the barrel. She was not aware of course that this was a custom with these birds, and thinking it was ill, placed a small dish of food in the barrel for him to eat. He apparently had no objection to taking his breakfast in bed, and when I returned it was reported to me that he had been ill for a day or so, and this kindness had been shown him. Now that the matter has been explained there will be no repetition of this indulgence.

Whydahs.

By Dr. E. Hopkinson. D.S.O.

(For the meaning of abbreviations used in this list *vide* page 186).

(Continued from p. 243).

CASSIN'S BLACK WHYDAH.

Coliostruthus concolor. H.L. v. 410.

Synonomy.

Vidua concolor. Cassin. 1848. *Coliostruthus concolor* (Sundev. 1940), *Coliuspasser concolor* (Reich. 1904).

References. Sh. iv. 44. Singv. 63.

Range. W. Africa (Senegambia to Angola); Equatorial Africa (Albert Lake), Nyassaland.

This is an all-black form of the next species, which is found in the regions named above. Not a trace of red throat is shown by the full-coloured males of this race. I find no record of its having yet been imported alive, nor do I know it in the Gambia, which must be included in its range as given above.

A coloured plate accompanies Cassin's description of this species in the Journal of the Philadelphic Academy. (1849. i. 241. Pl. 30).

RED-COLLARED WHYDAH.

Coliostruthus ardens. H.L. v. 410.

Synonomy.

I

Red-collared Widow-bird.
Crimson-collared Whydah. Necklaced Whydah (occ).
Red-chested Whydah, Red-throated Whydah.
* Panayan Bunting (Lth).
* Niobe Widow.

II

Fringilla ardens. Bodd. 1783. *Penthetria ardens* (Cab. 1850) and B.M. Cat.
Niobe ardens (Reichenbach. 1861). *Coliostruthus ardens.* (Finsch. 1885). *Coliostruthus ardens* (H.L. v.).
Coliuspasser ardens (Sh. 1886) and B. Afr. iv. 40.
Coliopasser ardens (Stark. 1900).
Emberiza signata. Scop. 1786.

Emberiza panayensis. Gm. 1788. *Penthcria panayensis* (Licht. 1854).

Vidua lenocinia. Lesson. 1831.

Vidua torquata. Lesson. 1837.

Vidua rubritorques. Sw. 1837. *Penthetria rubritorques* (Bp. 1850).

Penthcria (" Penthetria " /Sh.) *auricollis.* Licht. 1854.

Penthetria hartlaubi. Cab (nec Boc.) 1883.

REFERENCES. Butler. F.F. 290. Plate. ♂. ♀. Singv. 61. Pl. 26. Sh. iv. 40. B.S.A. i. 147. Butler. i. 189. Russ. i. 216. Sw. i. 174.

RANGE. S.E. Africa. E. Africa to Victoria Nyanza. S.W. Africa, R. Congo to Damaraland.

Specimens of this species are often found in which the red of the throat is replaced by yellow or orange. This variation is not in the same category as that found in the preceding all-black *C. concolor,* where a whole race occupying a certain definite area is affected, but is an instance of that individual colour-variation to which the Whydahs as a whole, as well as some of the Weavers, seem particularly liable. Such variations do not indicate any specific difference, but are merely individual aberrations, probably depending, as Captain Shelley says, to some extent upon the constitution of the individual bird being affected by the change in the flora and insect fauna of the large area over which they are distributed.

The Red-collared Whydah was bred in captivity first in 1909, but no details are available about that event; see B.N. 1909 p. 257. In B.N. for 1915 a recent success is described (p. 239) by Mr. Shore Baily, who also succeeded in the following year in breeding a hybrid between this Whydah and a Crimson-crowned Bishop, *(Pyromelana flammiceps)*, the male parent being the Bishop. See B.N. 1916. p. 237.

Descriptions of the nests and eggs are given in some of the authorities cited, but the fullest I find is a more recent one in the *Ibis* for 1907. p. 40. This, which is by Mr. Swynnerton and refers to Southern Rhodesian birds, is as follows: " The " nests are placed three feet or so from the ground in long " grass or weeds, and are built entirely of grass, the " finest portions consisting of the heads stripped of their seeds

" forming the interior; the loose ends, being brought forward " in a bunch over the top, act as a long fuzzy canopy to ward " off the sun and rain. One specimen, which shows signs of " inexperience or haste in its construction, practically lacks " this canopy, and has a small aditional entrance in the side. " The eggs are three in number and glossy; they vary from " dull bluish white to pale greenish blue, spotted, blotched " and mottled all over with ashy grey and brown of different " shades, and much resemble a certain type of egg of the " English Tree-Sparrow."

Mr. Shore Baily in the account he gives of his Whydahs' successful breeding says that the two eggs of the first clutch were white and rather large, but those of a second, pale bluish green thickly mottled with brown. This article (B.N. 1915 p.239) besides an excellent plain plate of the male Red-collared Whydah is also illustrated with some photos of the nest and eggs. In the following year he narrates his success in breeding the hybrid already mentioned and gives several more most interesting photos from the aviary.

◆

Coliostruthus tropica. Reichenow. 1904. H.L. v. 410.
Coliuspasser ardens tropica (Van Someren. Ibis. 1916. 417).

RANGE. E. Africa (Zambesi northwards). S.W. Africa (Angola).

Of this race of the Red-collared Whydah Mr. van Someren writes in the paper just mentioned, that they " frequent the grass and swamp country and are fairly common. (He is speaking of the Uganda). They nest in the tall rank grass. The eggs, from two to three in number, are of a greenish ground with ash-brown spots and blotches." He saw and obtained specimens of both forms, red and yellow-collared, another instance of the individual variation already mentioned as is often occurring in the Whydahs.

◆

RED-NAPED WHYDAH.

Coliostruthus laticauda. H.L. v. 411.

Synonomy.

I

Crimson-naped Whydah; Crimson-ringed Whydah.
Broad-tailed Whydah; Broad-tailed Widow-bird.

II

Fringilla laticauda. Licht. 1823. *Vidua laticauda.* (Gray. 1849).
Penthcria laticauda (Bp. 1850). *Penthetria laticauda* (Cab. 1850)
and B.N. Cat. 218.
Coliuspasser laticaudus (Blanf. 1870) and Sh. iv. 38.
Coliuspasser torquatus. Rupp. 1835-40.

REFERENCES. B.N. 1911. 297. Plate. ♂. Singv. 62. Pl. 27 Sh. iv. 38. Russ. i. 220.

RANGE. N.E. and E. Africa (Abyssinia to Kilimanjara).

This species which appears to have been first imported alive about 1910 is still very uncommon in captivity, as is only natural considering the distance its haunts are from the ordinary track of trade. An excellent plate of this bird has appeared in our Magazine (see above) which shows well the difference between this and the last species; in this the red encircles the whole face and is not merely confined to the chest. In the paper which accompanies the plate the Editor gives a general account of the species and notes from the *Ibis* thereon, while in the following year Mr. Shore Baily writes about a cock and two hens he obtained in 1914, illustrating his paper (B.N. 1916. 279) with photos of the cock in display and of one of the nests the birds built, without unfortunately doing anything further in the breeding line. This is as far as the species has got towards reproducing itself in captivity.

This is one of the Whydahs which makes regular "playgrounds," by wearing away the grass in one place by its love dance and display, leaving only a central tuft untrodden down by its gyrations and jumps.

Shelley gives us Fischer's description of the eggs, "strongly glossed, whitish, with reddish brown and violet-grey spots, most numerous at the thick end," and quotes Mr. Jackson's (the first) account of the "play-ground." A more recent note on these birds appears in the *Ibis* for 1916, where Mr. van Someren writes (p. 418) as follows: "Common in the grass "country of British East Africa. Nests were found in grassy "patches in the scrub and by the swamps. The nest is con-"structed of grass. The grass-blades in the actual nesting "site are first woven into a ring and the body of the nest "built out of this. The nest is very frail and usually remains "unlined until the first egg has been deposited. The eggs "are bluish or greenish, with numerous spots and blotches of "ash-brown and darker brown. Two is the usual clutch, but "as many as four have been found."

HARTLAUB'S MARSH-WHYDAH.

Coliostruthus hartlaubi. (H.L., V. 411).

Synonomy.

Penthetria hartlaubi. Bocage 1881. and B.M. Cat. 219. *Coliuspasser hartlaubi.* (Sh. 1886). and Sh. iv. 54.

RANGE. Equatorial Africa (Upper Kir). S.W. Africa (Angola). S.E. Africa (N.E. Rhodesia). Nyassaland.

This rare Whydah is, when in full colour, black with orange-yellow wing-patches, a colour pattern which approaches that of the Yellow-shouldered Whydah of the next genus, *Penthetriopsis.*

◆

Coliostruthus humeralis. H.L. v. 411.

Synonomy.

Penthetriopsis humeralis. Sharpe. 1901. *Coliuspasser hartlaubi humeralis* (Reichenow. 1904). *Coliuspasser hartlaubi.* pt. Sh. iv. 54.

RANGE. Equatorial Africa (Mt. Elgon to Wakkala).

This race of the preceding is not considered distinct from it by Captain Shelley, but appears as a separate species in the Hand List.

FULLEBORN'S MARSH-WHYDAH.

Coliostruthus psammocromia. H.L. v. 411.

Synonomy.

Penthetria psammocromia. Reichenow. 1900. *Coliuspasser psammocromius.* Reich. 1904, and Sh. iv. 53, where a reference to a plate in the third volume of Reichenow is given.

RANGE. Ukinga, N.E. Nyasaland.

This apparently very local race or species is another of the Yellow-shouldered Whydahs. As is also the case with the two preceding they are unknown to aviculture, and very little is on record as regards their wild life also.

(To be Continued).

The Birds of British Guiana.

By Chas. Dawson, S.J., M.A., (Oxon).

(Continued from p. 227).

WOOD-HEWERS.

Wood-hewers, like ant-thrushes are a large and little-known family, and like them, are peculiar to the New World. There are no less than fifty genera and four hundred species. They do not precisely "hew" the wood and would be better called "wood-peckers" were this name not already in possession of birds that might lay better claim to theirs. They might be better named "woodpeckers," for they run with great ease about the trunks of trees picking out insects and their larvae from holes and crevices. When the trunk of the tree is slender they will ascend or descend, sitting as it were astride, and clipping the tree with the sides of their feet with great adroitness, much in the manner of wood-peckers. They vary in size, the largest being a foot long; but generally they are only half that size. Red, rufous, or chestnut, are the prevailing colours, while the head and neck may be streaked or freckled with light buff or white, and there may be white or black patches on rump or throat respectively. The tail feathers, generally rounded, have in many cases projecting spines, like those of wood-peckers, which materially assist the bird in ascending or descending trees; and on them it can rest back during its "wood-hewing" operations. The beak may be long and curved, in one species, *Xiphorhynchus procurvus*, enormously so. They build their nests, sometimes great structures, in trees and shrubs or in holes of trees or banks. The sexes are similar. The voice is sometimes loud—the note being rapidly repeated in a descending trill—and sometimes rasping or chattering.

Wood-Peckers or Wood-Hewers.—(Colonial). *Dendrocolaptidæ.*

White-faced Wood-Hewer (?) (earth chit)	*Geositta leucopus.*
*Coppice Wood-Hewer (wood)	*Lochmias nematura.*
Fronted Wood-Hewer (social)	*Synallaxis frontalis.*
Brown-tailed Wood-Hewer	,, *brunneicaudalis.*
Whitish Wood-Hewer	,, *albescens.*
Guiana Wood-Hewer	,, *guianensis.*
Rootie or Red Wood-Hewer	,, *cinnamomea.*
*Swarthy Wood-Hewer (Roraima)	,, *adusta.*
Thrush-like Worm-eater (?)	*Automolus turdinus.*
White-throated Worm-eater	,, *albigularis.*
* (Sclater's)	*sclateri.*
*Fire-rose Water Worm-eater	*Philydor pyrrhodes.*
Red-tailed Water Worm-eater	,, *erythrocercus.*
Spotted-breasted Worm-eater (?)	,, *cervicalis.*
Cheek-bearded Worm-eater	*Xenops genibarbis.*
*Sharp-tailed Worm-eater	*Sclerurus caudacutus.*
Wedge-billed Worm-eater	*Glyphorhynchus cuneatus.*
*Long-tailed Wood-carver	*Dendrocichla longicauda.*
Resplendent Worm-eater	,, *gulginosa.*
Olive Worm-eater	,, *olivacea.*
*Merle Worm-eater	,, *merula.*
Spotted Wood-Bird	*Dendrornis guttatoides.*
*Pale-billed Wood-Bird	,, *rostripallens.*
Pard-spotted Wood-Bird	,, *pardalota.*
*Much-spotted Wood-Bird	,, *polysticta.*
Much-speckled Wood-Bird	,, *multiguttata.*
White-throated Tree-weaver	*Dendroplex picus.*
Wood-hewer (?)	*Dendrexetastes temmincki.*
Thick-billed Wood-hewer (?)	*Hylexetastes perroti.*
Spot-headed Wood-Bird	*Picolaptes puncticeps.*
White-lined Wood-Bird	,, *albolineatus.*
*Long-beaked Wood-Bird	*Nasica longirostris.*
Curve-billed Wood-Bird	*Xiphorhynchus trochilirostris.*
*Slightly Curved-bill Wood-Bird	,, *subprocurvirostris.*
Large Wood-hewer	*Dendrocolaptes plagosus.*
Broad-billed Wood-hewer	,, *certhia.*
*Bar backed Wood-hewer	,, *radiolatus.*

SUGAR BIRDS.

These charming birds were so called from their habit of fearlessly visiting sugar factories in pursuit of the flies that swarm in such places. In outward appearance, with their long beaks and forked tongues, they resemble humming-birds; their plumage however, though very beautiful, lacks the metallic lustre of *Trochilidæ*. They number some twelve genera and upwards of a hundred species, all peculiar to Neo-Tropical and Sub-Tropical regions. In company with Humming-Birds they probe flowers for honey, or like fly-catchers, dart after flies on the wing; or like tree-creepers, search the bark of trees for insects. Velvet-like or purple, relieved by brilliant patches of sky-blue, white, or yellow, are the prevailing tints; while the hens are often dull olive or green. From their note they have acquired the colloquial name of Quit-quits. They build a rough, domed nest of grass, moss, roots, etc., and deposit therein from two to four white, or greenish eggs, with blotches or specks of rusty-red. They are easily tamed, and from their fearless nature and pretty plumage, soon become great pets; but on account of difficult feeding they do not ordinarily live long in cages.

SUGAR-BIRDS or QUIT-QUITS.—(Colonial). *Cœrebidæ*.

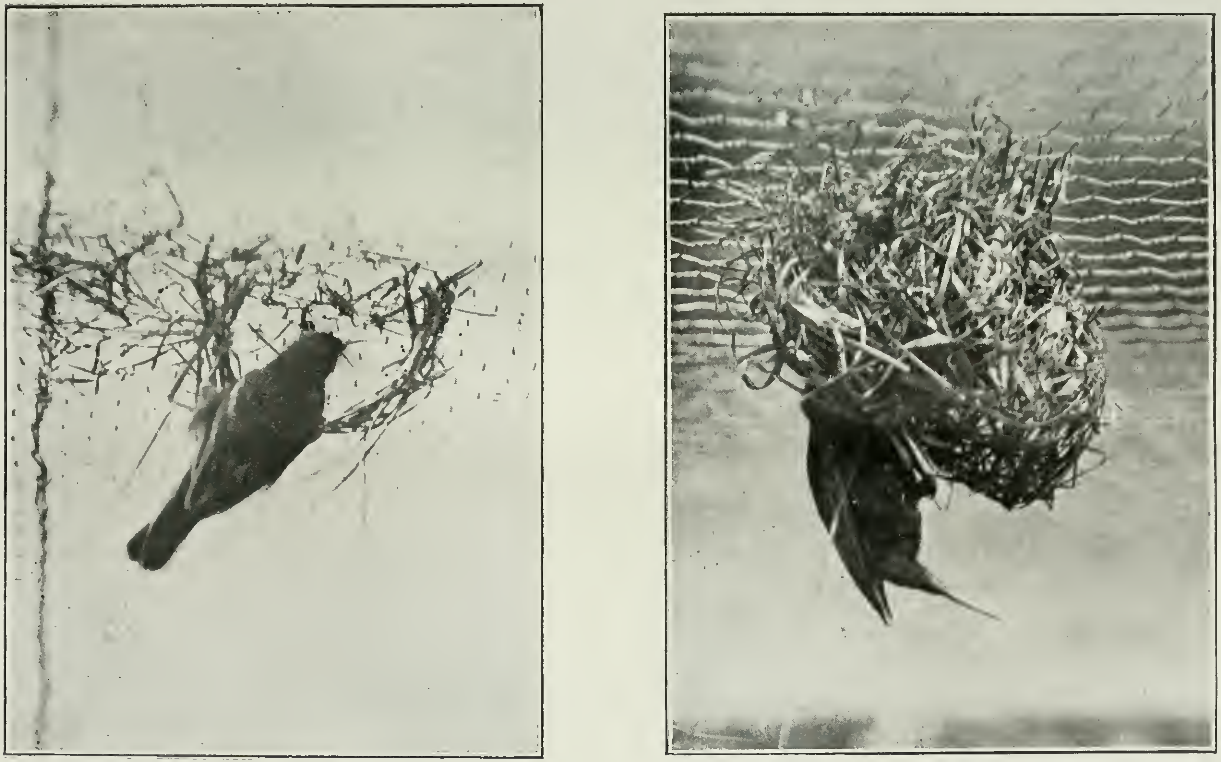
†Blue-capped Sugar-Bird	*Coereba (Certhiola) guianensis.*
Yellow-breasted Sugar-Bird	,, ,, *chloropyga.*
Hook-billed Sugar-Bird	*Diglossa major.*
Blue Sugar-Bird	*Dacnis cayana.*
†Angelic Sugar-Bird	,, *angelica.*
Purple-blue Sugar Bird (?)	,, *analis.*
Black-headed Sugar-Bird	*Chlorophanes spiza.*
†Purple and Black Sugar-Bird	*Cyanerpes (Coereba) caeruleus*

(To be continued).

Weavers.

BY W. SHORE BAILY.

The Yellow or Hyphantornine Weavers are a very numerous family and great nest builders, many of their nests being quite works of art and very durable. The trouble with these birds is the difficulty of identification. With the males it is possible to pick out the different varieties, although this is by no means easy, but with the hens it is practically impossible to do so. Their eggs vary to an extraordinary extent.



Half-Masked Weaver Nest Building.

Photo W. Shore Baily.

The ABYSSINIAN WEAVER *(Hyphantornis abyssinicus)* is the largest and handsomest of the group, and is a great nest builder. Dr. Butler in his *Foreign Bird Keeping* confuses it with the Black-headed Weaver *(H. melanocephalus)* a bird not much more than half its size. Dr. Russ also appears to mix it up with the Rufous-necked *(H. cucullatus)*. The Abyssinian Weaver is bright yellow and black, and has no chestnut colour about it whatever. It builds a large snail-shaped nest, over water where this is present; the entrance hole is at the bottom; this is lengthened out when the hen is incubating, forming a neck two or three inches long. Three eggs are laid, these being white thickly sprinkled with pale pink spots, but I have no doubt that they vary very much with different hens. A young one was hatched here, but was not fully reared. (B.N. vol. v, N.S.).

The RUFOUS-NECKED WEAVER, a bird of equal size, having the nape and back of neck chestnut, but without the black on the back, so striking a feature of the Abyssinian, builds a similar nest. I have never succeeded in getting hens for my males.

The OLIVACEOUS WEAVER *(H. olivaceus)* an equally large bird, has the face brown, but no black or chestnut about it. Its eyes are white, whereas the iris in the last two birds is red. This bird built many very finely woven nests in one of my aviaries, and finally mated with a small hen, rearing two hybrids in 1913 (see B.N. vol. iv, N.S.) I think that it is an extremely rare bird.

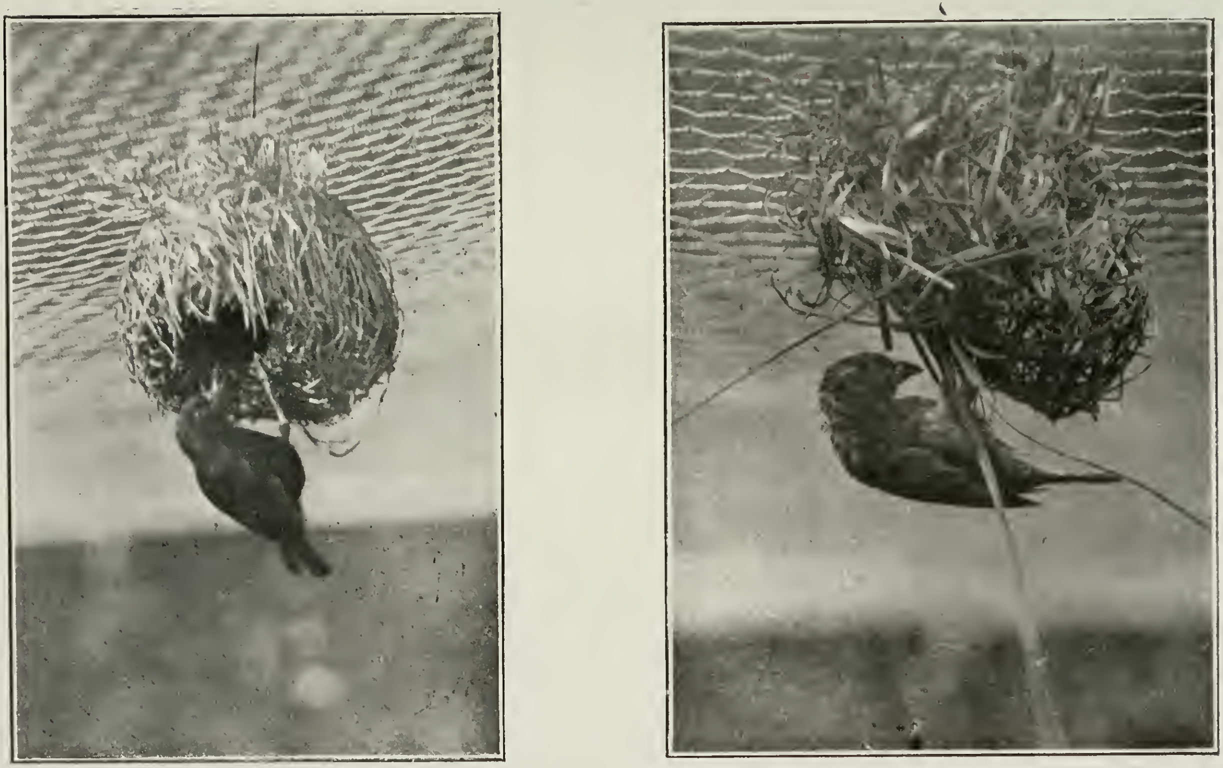
The BLACK-HEADED WEAVER *(H. melanocephalus)*, a very common bird, is much smaller. It is a greenish yellow in colour with a black head and no chestnut; iris red. The hen is of a much darker green than any of my other small weavers, its iris also is red, all the other hens having brown eyes. These birds have twice nested over the water in my aviary, the nest being shaped like those of the larger weavers. The eggs, two in number, were buff, resembling miniature partridge eggs. On each occasion they proved to be infertile. This bird has bred in captivity, but very few particulars were published.

The GOLDEN WEAVER *(Sitagra galbula)* a denizen of the Cape, is a very brightly coloured bird, having the crown of the head, breast and lower parts bright yellow; forehead and throat black. These nested two or three times with me, the nest being of the usual type. Each time three eggs were laid. These were large for the size of the bird, olive green in colour, heavily marked with small red splashes and spots.

The SHORT-WINGED WEAVER *(H. brachypterus)* is barely distinguishable from the last named bird. It is a good nest builder, but I have never been able to secure breeding hens.

The HALF-MASKED WEAVER *(H. vitellinus)* is one of the most attractive of the group; the male has the crown of the head and lower neck rich chestnut; the forehead and throat black. It is an indefatigable builder. Sometimes it will choose for a site the extreme end of a branch of some tree; at other times it will be content to suspend its home from the wire roof of its aviary. In the latter case it threads several long blades of grass, through meshes two or three inches apart. Grasping two or three of these in each claw, it hangs from the netting and ties them together with its beak. It then stands on the loop thus formed, and quickly roughs out a more or less globular nest, leaving an entrance from below. When nearly completed, working from the top side of the nest, it weaves in some wider grasses, so as to stiffen the whole structure and at the same time render it waterproof. If he succeeds in getting a hen to occupy it, he lengthens out the entrance hole, giving the nest the appearance of an abbreviated retort. Should his mate disapprove of his efforts, he promptly pulls the nest to pieces, and probably starts another one the next day. The eggs vary more than those of any other bird that I have kept. I have eggs in my collection, white with large crimson spots, white with faint red markings, and pale blue without any spots. Once only a young one left the nest here, and this did not survive (see B.N. vol. vii, N.S.).

The DWARF WEAVER *(Sitagra luteola)* is a charming little bird, about the size of our Willow-Wren, which the young birds in their nestling plumage very much resemble. The cock has a black forehead and throat, the remaider of its body being greenish-yellow. It is a great weaver, and prefers a building site over the water where this is present. Unlike the preceding bird it does not destroy its nest when built, but uses up its energy in building a series of them in close proximity to each other. At the present moment there is a group of ten over a small pond in one of my aviaries, all built by the same bird. They are similar in



Half-Masked Weaver Nest Building.

Photo W. Shore Baily.

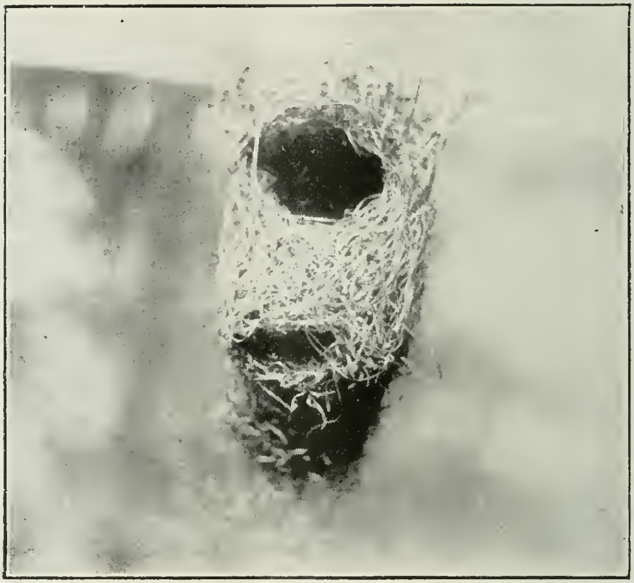


Photo W. Shore Baily.

Baya Weaver's Nest.

shape to those of the other *Hyphantornines*, but have a longer entrance funnel. This is not wide enough to admit of the entrance of two fingers. The eggs, two in number, are white. Young birds were successfully reared here in 1914 (see B.N. vol. v, N.S.).

The Baya Weaver *(Ploceus baya)* belongs to another group, and my experience with them is extremely limited. My cock, I have no hens, built himself a tent-like shelter in a faggot pile early in the year, in which it spent the night, but made no attempt at nest-building until the end of September. He then took possession of a derelict Abyssinian Weaver's nest that was hanging from the wire netting by a thread. Attaching blades of grass to the four corners he carefully fastened them to the wire netting and then wove a very strong, but somewhat shapeless nest, leaving the original entrance for the Abyssinian. He arranged two openings on the other side. For what purpose these were required I don't quite know—unless it was to allow him to escape more easily in case of attack by the larger and stronger bird. As far as my observation goes both birds occupy their own quarters quite peacefully every night. No account of the breeding of this species in captivity has, I believe, been published, but one of the large London dealers was advertising this autumn young ones said to have been bred by a gentleman at Bayswater. The principal difficulty in doing so would be, I think, that of securing breeding hens.

The Red-headed Weaver *(Quelea erythrocephala)* is a rather uncommon bird, about the size of the Red-billed Weaver, the males having a bright red head. This species has made no males having a bright red head. This species has made no attempt to nest with me. Although I have had a cock and two hens for some years, I have never seen them carrying nesting material. They are not a very attractive species.

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Editorial.

A Retrospect.—This is only a pleasant task when all things are favourable, nevertheless, however adverse the circumstances, it should prove profitable if these be boldly and squarely faced. "The times" could not have well been worse, and the year has been a difficult one indeed—there also has been a needless drain upon, not only the resources of the Club, but also upon the time of the honorary officials, owing to the slackness of some members in the payment of their subscriptions, omitting those who have been called to the colours.

Nevertheless, in spite of all difficulties, the volume, completed with this issue, is only behind its predecessors in bulk and the lack of coloured plates; in all round worth, we think, all will agree that it well holds its own, and we congratulate the members, especially the contributors, upon what has been achieved, in the face of almost insuperable difficulties.

A glance through the volume will show how much we owe to Mr. W. Shore Baily, who has contributed articles and photos to almost every issue, also to Mrs. A. M. Cook for her beautiful drawings which she has given gratis to the Club, as her part that this feature of the Magazine might be maintained. To Dr. Hopkinson we are also indebted for able and comprehensive articles on certain groups of birds, and before leaving for Gambia he prepared and left copy for the coming volume, which will be the first of a new series; and the same must be said of the Marquis of Tavistock, also of every contributor and of those who have so generously contributed to the Deficit and Illustration Funds, and none have need to regret their efforts and sacrifice in the light of what has been accomplished.

The awful World-War is still raging, and many of those on our roll have made the supreme sacrifice and fallen gallantly on the various fighting fronts in the cause of liberty, King and Country.

Of the coming volume we will not speak in this ussue, but if the same spirit prevails as during the past year, combined with a determination to remove what has hampered and made more difficult the work of this year, whatever the difficulties we may be called upon to encounter they will be overcome, and a successful avicultural year's work accomplished.

It is too early yet to make any statement as to strength of membership, but after thorough revision of the roll, we believe, our members will not be less than in the previous year.

We have the pleasure to state that the same officials and Council will serve us in the coming year, and feel assured that every member will give them their utmost and cordial support and co-operation, that the present position may be more than maintained.

ZOO NOTES: In the September and October " Reports on the Additions to the Menagerie," the following breeding successes are included:

5 Avadavats *(Sporaeginthus amandava).*
4 Chestnut-eared Finches *(Taeniopygia castanotis).*
2 Indian Palm Doves *(Stigmatopelia cambayensis).*
2 Buckley's Ground Doves *(Chamaepelia buckleyi).*
1 Angolan Singingfinch *(Serinus angolensis).*
1 Hybrid Lorikeet *(Trichoglossus novae-hollandiae × T. rubritorques).*
also.—
2 White-necked Cranes—Bred in Northamptonshire—*(Pseudogeranus leucauchen).*

Post Mortem Reports.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: In consequence of the pressure of War Work our Hon. Vet., Mr. H. Gray, M.R.C.V.S., has been unable to send in the usual Report, and he now is compelled to relinquish the office of Hon. Vet. for the time being. We beg in the name of the Club to render Mr. Gray our sincere thanks for the valuable service he has rendered to the club since March 1907 and our regrets that the " times " compel him to lay it aside. As soon as other arrangements can be made for the continuance of this important feature of the club's work it will be resumed, of which due notice will be given.

In the meantime Post Mortem examinations are suspended.

Correspondence.

BLACKBIRD × THRUSH HYBRID.

Sir.—In reply to Dr. Hopkinson's enquiry in B.N. August last; my friend Mr. T. Heath, who I believe has all the C.P Cats. from the beginning, informs me that the entry in the C.P Cat. of February, 1872 is as follows:

"Mr. A. Skinner, Blackbird × Thrush, cock, age 16 months, price £2 5s." Exhibition address: "121, West Street, Faversham."

The entry would indicate that the Blackbird was the male. This bird was awarded one of the three prizes, and the Judge marked the judging-slip "A very good class" (13 entries).

One would think the exhibitor bred the bird, as he gives its age.

Hampstead, N.W., November 24, 1917. G. CRABB.

COCKATOO NESTING NOTES.

Sir.—I am afraid I haven't very much to report to you in the bird-breeding line this season, as my time is too fully occupied to attend to the birds myself and all my capable men—where live-stock are concerned—have joined the colours. Consequently I have very few birds at the present time. My old pair of *Cacatua galerita* went to nest again this year and commenced sitting. After a short time I noticed that the hen bird only came down to feed, and as this continued for a few days I caught her up and visited the nest. The latter was deserted, as I feared, and I can only presume the cock fell a victim to some neighbouring "sportsman." I also had misfortune in attempting to breed the cross of *Cacatua leadbeateri* × *C. galerita*. I wintered a pair of these birds together in a cage, and in the spring put them out in a flight. The hen duly laid, but about this time I had urgent business to attend to on an outlying farm, which necessitated my absence from home for a few days..

On my return I found the cock bird—the Leadbeater's—crawling miserably about on the floor, and on picking him up found he had a badly broken wing and that this had become mortified. I did my best for him, but, as I anticipated, he was dead the next morning. Apparently he had become aggressive, and the attendant, valuing his own skin more than any prospective hybrids, had felled him with a broom handle with the above unfortunate result.

I have a young hybrid *(Turtur risorious × T. senegalensis)* just able to feed itself. On consulting your interesting book "Species which have reared young, etc.," I was surprised to see this cross was not included. Can *this* be an oversight? *

Paignton, October 17, 1917. H. WHITLEY.

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* We do not know of any record *re* this hybrid. If any member knows of any previous instance of this cross being successfully reared we shall be pleased to receive details.—Ed.

A Cruise on the S.Y. "Vectis."

By W. Shore Baily.

(Concluded from page 224)

The next morning we found that we were again out of sight of land. During the day two more whales were seen, and two or three of the passengers had a good view of a walrus that showed its ugly head within easy rifle shot of the vessel. At dinner the same evening our steward told us that the ice pack was in sight, and shortly afterwards the yacht stopped, within about two miles of a solid barrier of ice. Here and there on detached fragments little flocks of Black Guillemots looked like black spots against the white surface, but except for a few Gulls these were the only living things to be seen. It was a dreary outlook and many of us wondered how any one could find any attraction in Polar explorations. We didn't tarry here long, and few of us regretted that we were once more bound for warmer climes. Much of our time on the return journey to Norway was spent in the smoking room and saloon, and nothing of interest occurred until we reached Bird Island. Here a gun was fired and myriads of sea fowl at once took flight, and were soon all around the "Vectis." Besides many hundreds of the birds already noticed in this paper, we saw several of the Greater Black-backed Gulls, and a little flock of Brunick's Guillemots. These differ from the common Guillemot by having a white eyebrow-streak, but in all other respects look exactly similar. We were soon once more within the fringe of rocky islands that are found nearly the entire length of the Norwegian coast line, and, little as had been the motion in the Arctic Ocean, it was a comfort to some of us to be in dead smooth water again.

Our course was now shaped for Molde, and for two days we steamed steadily along between the Islands and the mainland, passing similar scenery to that which I have already tried to describe. All Norwegian scenery is beautiful, but it is not easy to convey an adequate idea of it on paper. Birds of one kind and another were continually in view. In the shelter of one low-lying island I spotted a large flock of Wildfowl. With the glasses I could make out Long-tailed Ducks, Pintail, Mallard and

Widgeon, and of course there may have been other varieties. These were the only game birds seen on the trip, and they reminded the sportsmen amongst us of some of our wildfowling excursions. We reached Molde at breakfast-time the next morning, and were delighted with our first view of the place. It was, I think, quite the prettiest little town we saw in Norway. From the luxuriance of the vegetation I imagine that it enjoys a milder climate than many places further south. In one of the churches here there is a magnificent picture of the Resurrection. It takes the place in the church of the coloured east window, usually found in our English churches. In the afternoon the "Hohenzollern" entered the harbour, followed in line by eight battleships and several cruisers, destroyers and torpedo boats. We had a splendid view, as they all passed the "Vectis" within easy range. One wonders whether the Kaiser will be ever again so popular in Norwegian waters, after the ruthless way his submarines have torpedoed their shipping.

After another full day's steaming, most of the time through the magnificent Hardanger fjord, we reached the little town of Odde. Here again we got mixed up with royalty. On attempting to land at the steps of the principal Hotel, we were peremptorily ordered off. We found that the late King of the Belgians had hired the whole hotel. We didn't see his Majesty, but some of his lady friends were very much in evidence, and were apparently amused at our discomforture. Here we once more hired stoljarres and drove out to see two very fine waterfalls. With one of these is connected a tale of the Kaiser's ruthlessness. The story goes that a young officer of the "Hohenzollern" in a fit of passion struck the Kaiser in the face. The penalty for this *lèse majesté* was death. The mode of his execution was an original one. He was taken to the top of the mountain, placed blindfolded upon a bicycle, and made to ride over the edge of the fall. In the magazine in which this story appeared the Kaiser and his staff are depicted gloating over the performance. A few years ago one wouldn't have believed this story for a moment, but after what has happened in Belgium and Servia it is possible to believe that it may be true. The volume of water tumbling over these falls doesn't compare with that of the Trondheim fall, but the height is very much greater. I should think that the lake into which these rivers empty must be at least 2000 ft. below the top of the mountain. Whilst looking upwards I saw an Eagle circling over the head of the fall. It was at a great height, and identification was difficult, but I have every reason to believe it was a Golden Eagle, a bird I have frequently met in California. None of the other passengers had ever seen the King of Birds in a wild state. On the opposite side of the lake is one of the largest snow-fields in Norway. Many of us would have liked to visit this, but time unfortunately did not permit, as our trip was now drawing to a close. The next morning found us at Stavanger, where we dropped our two Norse pilots. Very decent fellows they were, and always ready to answer questions as to their country, of which they were justifiably proud. Three days later we again entered the estuary of the Thames after crossing the North Sea in really delightful weather. In these notes I have not dwelt very much upon the social side of the trip, but I can assure my readers that this also was most enjoyable. The dances arranged by the genial young officers, and the game tournaments got up by the passengers' sports-committee were always successful, and I have no doubt that, if any of my fellow passengers should chance to see these lines, they will well remember the great victory we scored over the ships' officers and staff at cricket.

General Index.

A.

Accentor. Hedge, 155.
Across the Channel, 110.
Amazon-Parrot, White-eyebrowed, 191.
Ant Thrushes, 224, 225.
Avadavats, 11, 31.
,, Green, 60.
Aviaries, 19, 23, 51, 73.
Aviary, An Australian, 131.
,, Bakloh, 5.
,, Beginner's, A, 28.
,, Notes, 124, 131.
,, Room and its Occupants, 93.
,, Suburban, A, 52.

B.

Babbler, 187.
,, Jungle, 160.
,, Red-billed, 9.
Bakloh Aviary Notes—1916, 5.
Barbet, Blue-cheeked, 31, 58, 65.
,, Coppersmith, 31, 66, 160.
,, Green, 31, 65, 189.
,, Painted, 189.
Barbets, 146-7.
Bengalese, 188.
Bicheno's and Ringed Finches, 254-6.
Bill-Birds, 172.
Birds Feeding at Night, 12.
Bird Life in the Firing Line, 116.
Birds at the Front, 36.
,, of British Guiana, 77, 103, 126, 146, 170, 224, 265.
,, of Queensland, 114.
,, Seen in the Suburbs of Calcutta, 159.
Blackbird Hybrids., 180.
,, that Blighted my Life, The, 87.
Breeding Experiences—1916,10.
,, Notes, 180, 227.
Breeding of Blackbird × Thrush Hybrid, 180.
,, ,, Black-tailed Hawfinch, 181
,, ,, Blue Budgerigars, 60, 129, 228.
,, ,, Brambling, 234.
,, ,, Chestnut-breasted Man. × Silverbill, 195, 244.
,, ,, Green Fruit-Pigeon, 157.
,, ,, Hybrid Cockatoos, 204. 232.
,, ,, Hybrid Finches, 250.
,, ,, Indian Shamah, 150, 176, 204.
,, ,, Magpie Man. × Silverbill, 195, 245.
,, ,, Song Thrush × Blackbird Hybrid, 198, 202.
,, ,, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, 61.
,, ,, Sydney Waxbills, 3.
,, ,, White-cheeked Finch-Larks, 133.
,, ,, Y. R. Serin × St. Helena Seedeater Hybrid, 72.
British Bird Calendar, 108, 132.
Budgerigars, 94, 126, 208, 226, 228.
,, Blue, 60, 129, 156, 228.
,, Yellow from Green, 251.
Bulbul, Black-capped Green, 188.
,, Ceylon, 189.
,, Red-vented, 188.
,, Red-Whiskered, 188.
,, White-cheeked, 31.
,, White-eared, 31.
,, White-eyebrowed, 188.
Bullfinch, 31, 154.
,, Himalayan, 195.
Bunting, Red-headed, 31.
Bush-Chats, Pied, 5, 31.
Buzzards, 78.

C.

Calornis, Glossy, 31.

Canaries, 209.
Caracara, 79, 81.
Cardinal, Pope, 125, 130, 155, 194.
,, Red-crested, 125.
,, Virginian, 125.
Chaffinch, 150.
Chat, Pied Bush-, 5, 31.
,, White-fronted, 16.
Cherry Finch, The, 205-7.
Chough, Himalayan, 31, 33.
,, Red-billed, 33.
Cockateel, 126, 196, 209, 251.
Cockatoo, Banksian, 194.
,, Hybrids, 156, 204.
,, Nesting Notes, 272.
,, Roeate, 204, 262.
,, Sulphur-crested (Lesser) 204 232.
,, Western Black, 194.
Cockatoos, 272.
Conure, All Green, 130.
Cordon Bleu, 11.
Correspondence, 39, 60, 107.
Coucal, Indian, 31.
Crake, Banded, 82.
Crow, Indian House, 159.
Crow-Pheasant, 31.
Crows, 106.
Cruise on the "S.Y. Vectis." 140, 176, 221, 273.
Cuckoo, Black, 160, 191.
Cuckoos, 173-4.
Curlew, Some Notes on the, 137.
Cutthroat, 208.

D.

Device for Supply of Fresh Water, 203.
Dove Auriculated, 156, 226.
,, Aurita, 50.
,, Barred, 226.
,, Bleeding-heart, 69.
,, Bronze-necked, 48.
,, Bronze-winged, 70.
,, Brush Bronze-wing, 125, 132.
,, Buckley's Ground, 226.
,, Cape, 49, 195.
Dove Crested, 68, 176, 196, 226.
,, Diamond, 48, 125, 176, 195, 226, 227, 251.
,, Green-winged, 31, 70, 125.
,, Half-collared Turtle, 68.
,, Ind. Bronze-wing, 31, 70, 125.
,, Necklace, 50.
,, Peaceful, 47, 145, 196.
,, Plumed Ground, 135, 196.
,, Red Mountain, 125, 251.
,, Senegal Turtle, 50.
,, Talpacoti, 125, 195, 251.
,, Violet, 69, 125, 195.
,, White-crowned, 69.
,, White-winged, 50.
,, Zebra, 47.
,, Zenaida, 50.
Doves, 47, 68, 155.
,, and Pigeons, 125.
,, Some, I have Kept, 47, 68.
Duck, Carolina, 176, 226.
,, Mandarin, 226.
,, Muscovy, 227.
Drongo, G. Racquet-tailed, 31.

E.

Eagle, Harpy, 78.
Eagles, 78, 80.
Early Experiences, 19, 23, 51, 73, 118, 152, 167.
Errata, 98, 131, 167.

F.

Falcons, 78.
Fieldfare, 195.
Finch, Afghan Rosy-winged, 31.
,, African, 124.
,, Australian, 124, 187.
,, Bar breasted, Fire-, 250.
,, Bicheno's, 124, 195, 254.
,, Black-tailed Haw-, 181.
,, Bramble, 234.
,, Bull-, 39 154.
,, Chaff-, 156.
,, Cherry, 124, 205-7.
,, Chestnut-breasted, 124.

Finch Chestnut-eared, 175, 226.
,, Cuban, 11, 125, 130, 226.
,, Diamond, 124, 130, 155, 194.
,, Euler's, 125.
,, Fire, 250.
,, Gold—, 153.
,, Gouldian, 11, 132, 196, 251.
,, Green-, 153.
,, Grey Singing, 156, 252.
,, Haw-, 39.
,, Himalayan Bull—, 195.
,, ,, Gold-, 31, 196.
,, Hybrids, 39, 72, 195.
,, Larks, 130, 133, 175.
,, Long-tail Grass-, 124, 130, 196, 251.
,, Masked Grass-, 124.
,, Nutmeg, 31.
,, Orchard, 90.
,, Parrot, 124, 226.
,, Pileated, 125.
,, Pintailed Parrot, 10.
,, Red-headed, 251.
,, Ribbon, 167.
,, Ringed, 254.
,, Rosy-winged Afghan,, 31.
,, Rufous-tail Grass-, 124.
,, South American, 125.
,, Spice, 188.
,, Yellow-rumped, 124.
,, Zebra, 124, 207, 251.
Finches, 250.
Firefinch, 250.
,, Bar-breasted, 250.
Finch-Lark, White-cheeked, 130, 133.
,, ,, (S'th'n.), 175.
Flycatcher, Paradise, 188, 189.
Foreign Birds—Their Adaptability, etc. 162.
From All Souces, 16.
,, Far and Near, 36.
Fruit-Pigeons, Green, 31, 71, 125, 157, 196.
,, ,, Kokla Green, 31.
Fruitsucker, 135.
,, Gold-fronted, 31, 135.
Fruitsucker Hardwick's, 31, 136.
,, Malabar, 188.

G.

Goose, Bernicle, 227.
Gnat-Eaters, 224.
Goat-Suckers, 104.
Goldfinch, 153.
,, Himalayan, 31, 196.
Goshawks, 82.
Grassfinch, Long-tailed, 124, 130, 196, 251.
,, Masked, 124.
,, Rufous-tailed, 124.
Greenfinch, 153.
Green Woodpecker, The, 85.
Gull, Black backed, 226.

H.

Harrier Montague's, 38.
Harrier's, 78, 79, 81.
Hawfinch, 39.
,, Black-tailed, 181.
,, Hybrid, 39.
Hawks, 78, 79, 80, 81.
,, Harrier, 78, 79, 80, 81.
,, Hobby, 82.
Hornbill, Pied, 31.
Hybrid, Blackbird × Thrush, 180, 198, 202.
,, Breeding, 13.
,, Cockatoo, Roseate × L. Sulphur-crest, 204, 232.
,, Dove, Necklace × Senegal, 14
,, Finch, Haw- × Bull-, 39.
,, ,, Yell.-rumped Serin × St. Helena, 72.
,, ,, Bar-breasted Fire- × Firefinch, 250.
,, ,, St. Helena × Grey Singing, 252.
,, Jungle-Fowl, Sonnerat's × Red, 227.
,, Lorikeet, Red-collared × Swainson's, 197.

Hybrid Mannikin, Chestnut-breasted × Silverbill, 195, 244.
,, ,, Magpie × Silverbill, 195, 245.
,, Queries, 180, 198-200, 227.
,, Sparrow, House × Cape, 14.
,, Thrush, Song Thrush × Blackbird, 180.

I.

Ideas on Breeding and Origin of Blue Budgerigars, 129.
Iora, Common. 83.

J.

Jacamars. 148-9.
Jay, Blue, 125, 197.
Jays, 105.
Jungle-Fowl Hybrids, 227.

K.

Keeping Magpie, in Cage, 132.
Kingfishers, 147-8.
Kiskadee, 126-7.
Kite, Indian, 161.
Kites, 79, 81.
Koels, 160.
Kowal, 191.

L.

Lark, White-cheeked Finch-, 130, 133.
,, S. ,, ,, ,, 175.
Laughing-Thrush, Rufous-chimed, 31.
,, ,, Streaked, 31.
,, Jackass, The, 229.
Linnet, 167.
Lorikeet, Blue-faced, 192.
,, ,, Mountain, 215.
,, Red-collared, 197, 208.
,, Red-naped (*vide* Red-collared).
,, Swainson's, 12, 31, 192, 197, 257.
Lord Lucas's Bird, Preserve, 39.
Lory, Yellow-backed, 31.
Lovebird, Black-cheeked, 126, 209, 228.
,, Black-faced (*vide* Black-cheeked).
,, Guiana, 19, 192, 251.
,, Peach-faced, 126, 196, 228, 251.

M.

Macaws, 170.
Mannikin, Black-headed, 3, 188.
,, Chestnut-breasted, 195, 244.
,, Hybrids, 195, 244, 245.
,, Magpie, 195, 245.
Minivet, Orange, 188.
Mot-Mots, 148.
Mynah, Bank, 31, 98.
,, Common, 160.
,, Larger Hill, 31, 98.
,, Pied, 160.

N.

Native Hens, Black-tailed, 17.
Nesting Habits of Rain Quail, 59.
,, Notes, 130, 194.
,, ,, Cockatoos, 272.
,, of Black-breasted Mex. Quail. 21.
,, ,, Brambling, 234.
,, ,, Fieldfare, 216.
,, ,, Redwing, 219.
,, ,, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, 59.
,, ,, White-cheeked Finch-Larks, 133.
Nidification of the Golden Weaver Bird 59.
Nightjars, 78, 104, 106.
Nonpareil, Pintail, 31.
Notes from an Amateur in Ceylon, 187.
,, in my Birdroom, Stray, 207.
,, Nesting, 130, 194.
,, of the Season, 191, 251.
,, on the Curlew, Some, 137.
,, Zoo, 156, 175, 197, 226.

O.

Obituary, 84, 108, 131, 252.
Oil-Bird, 104.
Orchard Finch, The, 93.
Oriole, Golden, 31, 188, 190.
,, Indian, 33.
,, Maroon, 31, 33.
Ouzel, Grey-winged, 130.
Owl, Burrowing, 104.
,, Downy, 109.
,, Hawk-, 104.
,, Spectacled, 109.
Owls, 78, 103, 105.

P.

Parrakeet, Alexandrine, 210.
,, All Green, 130.
,, African Ring-neck, 193.
,, Barraband's, 193.
,, Bourke's, 192.
,, Blossom-headed, 31, 193.
,, Blue-bonnet, 191.
,, ,, -winged Grass-, 193, 251.
,, Hooded, 192, 251.
,, Javan Moustache, 31.
,, Many Colour, 191, 192.
,, New Zealand, 191.
,, Pennant's, 227.
,, Pileated, 193.
,, Queen Alexandra, 82, 106, 193.
,, Red-rumped, 192, 193.
,, Ring-necked, 193.
,, Rock Grass-, 193.
,, Rosella, 11.
,, Slaty-headed, 31.
,, Stanley, 180.
,, Tui, 209.
,, Turquosine, 251.
,, Uvaean, 191.
,, Yellow-bellied, 191.
Parrot, Amazon, (*vide* under A.)
,, Senegal, 94, 95-7.
Parrots, 170-2.
Parrot-Finch, Pintails, 31.
Parrotlets, Guiana, 191, 192, 251.
Pheasant, Common, 227.
,, Silver, 227.
Pigeon, Bleeding-heart, 69.
,, Crested, 68, 176, 196, 226.
,, Geoffrey's, 125, 197..
,, Green Fruit-, 31, 71, 125, 157, 196.
,, Kokla Green Fruit-, 31.
,, S. Tri.-spotted, 156, 176.
,, White-crowned, 69.
Pirate of the Lagoon, The, 18.
Pitta, Bengal, 31.
Private Importation of Indian Birds, 31 59, 65, 98, 135.
Prospect-1917, The, 1.
Puff-Birds, 146.

Q.

Quail, Black-breasted Mexican, 21.
,, Bob-White, 21.
,, Button, 31, 126.
,, Cuban, 21.
,, Jungle Bush, 31, 126.
,, Lesser Button, 31.
,, Rain, 31, 59.
,, White-cheeked Crested, 21.
Queen Alexandra Par'kts, 82, 106, 193.
Quit-quits, 267.

R.

Rats and Mice, To Abolish, 107
Redpoll, Lesser, 167.
Robin, Japanese, 31.
,, Pekin, 188.
Reviews, Menagerie Club, Y.B., 1916, 40.
Roller, Ind., 31.

S.

Seed-Eater, St. Helena, 72, 252.
,, , Hybrids, 252.
Serin, Yell.-rumped, 72.
Shamah, 31, 150, 176, 204.
,, Nepally, 187.
Silverbill, 195.
,, Indian, 31.
Siskin, Himalayan, 31.
Siskins, 154
Somewhere in France, 110.
Song-Sparrow, Pileated, 156, 197, 226, 227.
,, ,, White-throated, 56, 155.
Song-Sparrows, 125, 155.
Sparrow, Java, 187.
,, Hybrids, 14.
,, Pileated Song-, 156, 197, 226, 227.
,, Song, 125, 155, 156, 197, 226, 227.
,, White-throated Song, 56, 155.
Spectacled Owl, The, 109.
Starling, 94.
,, Metallic, 196.
Story of Jobo; The, 95.
Stray Notes in my Birdroom, 207.
Sugarbird, Yell.-wing, 106.
Sugarbirds, 266, 267.
Sultan Birds, 189.
Sunbird, Less. Double-collared, 197.
,, Purple, 130.

T.

Tailor-Bird, 7.
Tanager, Yell.-rumped, 197.
Thrush, Ant-, 224, 225.
,, Him. Blue Whistling, 31, 35.
,, Hybrids, 189, 198-202.
,, Red-legged Cuban, 94.
,, Rufous-chinned Laughing, 31.
,, Song, 180, 198-202.
,, Streaked Laughing, 31.
Toucan, Cuvier's, 45.
,, Less. Sulphur-breasted, 41, 43.
Toucans, Some, 41.
,, 172.
Trogons, 149-50.
Turkey, North American, 227.
Tyrant-Birds, 126, 127, 128.

U.

Uvaean Parrakeet, 191.

V.

Vulture, Black, 79.
,, Indian, 161.
Vultures, 78, 79, 80, 81.

W.

Warbler, Grasshopper, 39.
Water-Hen, Ind. White-breasted, 31.
Waxbill, Sydney, 3.
Weaver, Abyssinian, 268.
,, Baya, 188, 270.
,, Black-headed, 268.
, Crimson-crowned, 166, 248.
,, Dwarf, 269.
,, Golden, 59, 268.
,, ,, Oriole, 209.
,, Grenadier, 249.
,, Half-Masked, 269.
,, Hyphantornine, 267.
,, Madagascar, 188
,, Napoleon, 188, 248.
,, Orange, 197, 226, 248.
,, Olivaceous, 268.
,, Red-billed, 208, 249.
,, ,, headed, 270.
,, Rufous-necked, 268.
,, Short-winged, 269
Weavers, 163-6, 188, 247-9, 267-70.
Whistling-Thrush, Him. Blue, 31, 35.
White-eye. Indian, 31, 32.
,, ,, Green, 156,

Whydah, Benguela Long-tail, 243.
,, Cassin's Black, 260.
,, Crimson-ringed, 262.
,, Delamere's Long-tail, 243.
,, Fischer's Shaft-tailed, 239.
,, Fulleborn's Marsh-, 264.
,, Giant, 241.
,, Hartlaub's Marsh-, 264.
,, Long-tail, 241.
,, Paradise, 239.
,, Pin-tail, 211.
,, Queen, 6, 237.
,, Red-collared, 260.
,, ,, naped, 262.
,, Splendid Black, 210.
Whydahs, 183-6, 210-4, 237-43, 260-4.
Wood-Birds, 266.
Wood-Hewers, 265, 266.
Woodpecker, Green, 85.
,, Red, 188.
Woodpeckers, 174-5, 265.
Worm-Eaters, 266.

Y.

Young Yell.-wing Sugarbird, 106.

Z.

Zoo Notes, 156, 175, 197, 226.

Index to Genera and Species.

A.

abbreviatus, Tac. 81
abyssinicus, Hyp. 268
Accipiter bicolor, 82.
,, *pileatus*, 82
,, *subniger*, 82
,, *tinus*, 82
Accipitriformes, 80
accipitrinus, Der. 171
acre, Orn. 128
Acridotheres ginginianus, 99
,, *tristis*, 160
acuticauda, Poe. 196
acutipennis, Cho. 106
adusta, Sya. 266
Aena capensis, 49
Aegintha tiphia, 83
Aeginthus temporalis, 3
aequinoctialis, But. 81
aeruginosus, Cir, 171
aestiva, Ama. 171
Aex galericulata, 226
afra, Pyr. 248
Agapornis roseicollis, 196
Aidemosyne cantans, 195, 246
,, *malabarica*, 244
,, *modesta*, 205
albescens, Sya. 266
albicaudatus, Tac. 81
albiceps, Ela. 127
albicollis, Leg. 128
,, *Leu.* 81
,, *Nyc.* 106
,, *Zon.* 56
albifrons, Chr. 191
,, *Pit.* 225
albigularis, Ant. 266
,, *Fal.* 82.
albirostris, Gal. 149
albiventris, Rha. 225
albolineatus, Pic. 266
alcyon, Cer. 148
alexandrae, Spa. 82, 193
amabilis, Zen. 50
Amadina fasciata, 167
amandava, Spo. 11
Amauresthes fringilloides, 195, 246
amaurocephalus, Lep. 128
amazona, Cer. 148
Amazona aestiva, 171
,, *amazonica*, 171
,, *bodini*, 171
,, *dufresneana*, 171
,, *farinosa*, 171
,, *festiva*, 171
,, *ochrocephala*, 171
amazonica, Ama, 171
americana, Cer. 148
,, *Mel.* 227
americanus, Coc. 174
,, *Iby.* 81
analis, Dac. 267
angelica, Dac. 267
ani, Cro. 174
ansorgei, Dia. 243
anthracina, Uru. 81
anthoides, Cor. 226
Ara ararauna, 171
,, *chloroptera*, 171
,, *hahni*, 171
,, *macao*, 171
,, *macavaanna*, 171
,, *severa*, 171
aracari, Pte. 173
ardens, Col. 260
ardesiacus, Dys. 225
,, *Hor.* 128
Arundinicola leucocephalus, 128
asiatica, Cyn. 58
asio, Sco. 105
Asio clamator, 105
Astur pectoralis, 82
Asturina nitida, 81
ater, Iby. 81
atrata, Cat. 80

atricapilla, Sco. 105
atricollis, Tro. 150
atrothorax, Dry. 226
audax, Myr. 127
Aulacorhamphus, 42
  ,, *bitorquatus,* 173
  ,, *sulcatus,* 173
  ,, *whiteleyana,* 173
aura Cat. 81
  ,, *Rhi.* 81
aurantius, Fal. 82
auratus, Cap. 147
aurea, Jac. 149
aureus, Con. 171
auriculata, Zen. 156, 227
aurifrons, Chi. 135
aurita, Con. 226
  ,, *Zen,* 50
Automolus albigularis, 266
  ,, *sclateri,* 266
  ,, *turdinus,* 266
axillaris, Myr. 225

B.

banksii, Cal. 194
barbatus, Myi. 128
barrabandi, Pol. 193
baya, Plo. 270
bichenovii, Sti. 195
bicolor, Acc. 82
bidentatus, Har. 82
bitorquatus, Aul. 173
bodini, Ama. 171
Bolborhynchus panychlorus, 171
Brachygalba lugubris, 149
brachyura, But. 81
bourkei, Neo. 192
brachyptera, Hyp. 269
Branta leucopsis, 227
brasiliana, Sco. 145
brevicauda, Gra. 226
brevirostris, Emp. 128
Brotogerys chrysopterus, 171
  ,, *tirica,* 171
  ,, *tuipara,* 171
brunneicaudalis, Sya. 266
Bubo virginianus, 105
buckleyi, Cha. 226
Buco collaris, 147
  ,, *dysoni,* 147
  ,, *hyperrhynchus,* 147
  ,, *macrorhynchus,* 147
  ,, *ordi,* 147
  ,, *tamatia,* 147
  ,, *tectis,* 147
burrovianus, Rhi. 81
Busarellus nigricollis, 81
Buteogallus aequinoctialis, 81
Buteola brachyura, 81

C.

Cacatua galerita, 59, 61, 272
  ,, *roseicapilla,* 232
  ,, *sulphurea,* 232
  ,, *Cadbeateri,* 272
Cadbeateri, cac. 272
cachinnans, Her. 81
caerulescens, Ger. 81
caica, Pio. 172
calidris, Tot. 234
Calopsittacus novae-hollandiae, 196
Calyptorhynchus banksii, 194
  ,, *stellatus,* 194
Campophilus melanoleucus, 175
  ,, *rubricollis,* 175
caniceps, Meg. 66
canora, Pho. 11, 226
canorus, Cra. 160
cantans, Aid. 195, 246
cantator, Hyp. 226
capensis, Aen. 49
capistratus, Chl. 175
Capito auratus, 147
  ,, *niger,* 147
caprata, Pra. 5
Caprimulgus nigrescens, 106
  ,, *rufus,* 106
Carduelis indica, 196
Carina moschata, 227
caripennis, Ste. 106

cassini, Vei. 175
castaneithorax, Mun. 195, 244
castanotis, Tac. 175, 226
Catharista atratus, 80
,, urbu, 80
Cathartes aura, 81
,, perniger, 81
Cathartidiformes, 80
caudacutus, Sel. 266
cayana, Dac. 267
cayanus, Cya. 106
cayennensis, Lep. 81
,, Myr. 127
,, Rog. 81
,, Ste. 106
Celeus elegans, 175
,, reichenbachi, 175
Ceophloeus lineatus, 175
Cerchneipicus torquatus, 175
Cerchnis isabellina, 82
,, sparvaria, 82
Cercomacra cinerascens, 225
,, napensis, 225
,, tyrannina, 225
certhia, Den. 266
Certhiola, 267
cervicalis, Phi. 266
Ceryle alcyon, 148
,, amazona, 148
,, americana, 148
,, inda, 148
,, stictoptera, 148
,, superciliosa, 148
,, torquata, 148
Chalcophaps chrysochlora, 71
,, indica, 70
chalcoptera, Phaps. 70
Chamaepelia buckleyi, 226
,, talpacoti, 195
Chamaeza fulvescens, 226
Chelidoptera tenebrosa, 147
cheriway, Pol. 81
chima-chima, Mit. 81
Chloronerpes capistratus, 175
,, flavigula, 175
,, rubiginosus, 175
Chorophanes spiza, 267
Chloropsis aurifrons, 135
,, hardwickii, 136
chloroptera, Ara. 171
chloropyga, Coe. 266
chrysopterus, Bro. 171
Chrysoptilus punctigula, 175
Chrysotis albifrons, 191
,, amazonica, 171
,, dufreseana, 171
,, festiva, 171
,, ochrocephala, 171
Ciccaba hulula, 106
,, virgata, 105
cineracea, Say. 128
cinerascens, Cer. 225
cinereinucha, Tha. 225
cinero-niger, Tha. 225
cineriventris, Myr. 225
cinereum, Tod. 128
cingulata, Uro. 171
cinnamomea, Dry. 226
,, Sya. 266
Circus maculosus, 81
cirrhatus, Pic. 175
,, Tha 225
clamator, Asio. 105
Coccyzus americanus, 174
,, euleri, 174
,, melanocoryphus, 174
,, minor, 174
Coereba caerulea, 267
,, chloropyga, 267
,, cyanea, 106
,, guianensis, 267
colchicus, Pha. 227
Colinus cubanensis, 21
,, pectoralis, 21
,, virginianus, 21
Coliostruthus ardens, 260
,, concolor, 260
,, hartlaubi, 264
,, laticauda, 262
,, psammocromia, 264
collaris, Buc. 147
,, Rha. 225

colma, For. 226
Colopterus galeatus, 128
Columba leucocephala, 69
,, *phaeonota*, 156, 176
Columbidae, 47
concolor, Col. 260
Conophaga aurita, 226
consobrina, For. 225
contra, Stu. 160
Conurus aeruginosus, 171
,, *leucopthalmus*, 171
,, *solstilialis*, 171
Copurus leuconotus, 128
coromandelica, Cot. 59
Corvus splendens, 159
Corythopis anthoides, 226
Coturnix coromandelica, 59
Crateropus canorus, 160
crissalis, For. 226
cristata, Cya. 197
Crithagra musica, 156
Crocomorphus flavus, 175
Crotophaga ani, 174
,, *major*, 174
,, *sulcirostris*, 174
cruentatus, Mel. 175
cubanensis, Col. 21
cucullatus, Hyp. 268
cuneata, Geo. 48, 176, 195, 226, 227
cuneatus, Gly. 266
cyanea, Coe. 106
Cyanerpes caeruleus, 267
Cyanocitta cristata, 197
Cyanocorax cayanus, 106
,, *violaceus*, 106
Cyanorhamphus novae-zealandiae, 191
Cyanops asiatica, 59
Cymbilanius lineatus, 225

D.

Dacelo gigas, 229
Dacnis analis, 267
,, *angelica*, 267
,, *cayana*, 267
delamerei, Dia. 243
Dendrexetastes temmincki, 266
Dendrocichla gulginosa, 266
,, *longicauda*, 266
,, *merula*, 266
,, *olivacea*, 266
Dendrocolaptes certhia, 266
,, *plagosus*, 266
,, *radiolatus*, 266
Dendroplex picus, 266
Dendrornis guttatoides, 266
,, *multiguttata*, 266
,, *pardolata*, 266
,, *polysticta*, 266
,, *rostripallens*, 266
Deroptyus accipitrinus, 171
Diatropura ansorgei, 243
,, *delamerei*, 243
,, *progne*, 241
dicolorus, Rha. 172
diodon, Har. 82
Diglossa major, 267
Diplopterus naevius, 174
dissimilis, Pse. 192
doliatus, Tha. 225
dorsimaculatus, Myr. 225
Dromococcyx pavoninus, 174
Drymophila atrathorax, 226
,, *cinnamomea*, 226
,, *pelzelni*, 226
,, *swainsoni*, 226
dufresneana, Ama. 171
Dysithamnus ardesiacus, 225
,, *schistaceus*, 225
,, *spodionotus*, 225
dysoni, Buc. 147

E.

egregia, Pyr. 171
Elainea albiceps, 127
,, *olivina*, 127
,, *pagana*, 127
Elanoides furcatus, 81
Elanus leucura, 81
elegans, Cel. 175
,, *Cha.* 70
,, *Jum.* 175

Empidagra brevirostris, 128
Empidochanes salvani, 128
Empidonax olivius, 128
Empidonomus varius, 128
Eophona melanura, 181
eremita, Gra. 33
erythrocephala, Pyr. 195
,, *Que.* 270
erythrocercus, Phi. 266
erythroptera, Phl. 226
erythrorhynchus, Rha. 172
Erythrura prasina, 10
,, *psittacea*, 226
erythrurus, Myi. 128
Estrilda phoenicotis, 11
Eulabes intermedius, 98
euleri, Coc. 174
Euplectes franciscana, 226
eximius, Pla. 11

F.

Falco albigularis, 82
,, *aurantius*, 82
,, *fusco-cacrulescens*, 82
farinosa, Ama. 171
fasciata, Ama. 167
ferox, Myi. 128
festiva, Ama. 171
fischeri, Lin. 239
flammea, Stri. 106
flammiceps, Pyr. 248
flavescens, Hyp. 226
flavigula, Chl. 175
flaviventris, Pla. 191
,, *Rhy.* 128
flavus, Cro. 175
Fluvicoia pica, 128
Formicarius colma, 226
,, *crissalis*, 226
,, *nigrifrons*, 226
Formicivora consobrina, 225
,, *grisea*, 225
formosa, Sti. 60
franciscana, Eup. 226
Fringilla montifringilla, 234
fringilloides, Ama. 195, 246
frontalis, Sya. 266
fruticeti, Phr. 90
fulvescens, Cha. 226
furcata, Ela. 81
fusca, Mal. 147
Fuscarthmus russatus, 128
,, *zosterops*, 128
fusco-caerulescens, Fal. 82
fuscus, Pio. 171

G.

gaimardi, Myi. 128
galbula, Sit. 268
Galbula albirostris, 149
,, *leucogaster*, 149
,, *ruficauda*, 149
,, *viridis*, 149
galeatus, Cal. 128
galericulata, Aex. 226
galerita, Cac. 59, 61, 272
Gallus gallus, 227
,, *sonnerati*, 227
Gampsonyx swainsoni, 81
Gecinus viridis, 85
genibarbus, Xen. 266
Gennaeus nycthemerus, 227
Geopelia cuneata, 48, 176, 195, 226, 227
,, *striata*, 47, 226
,, *tranquilla*, 47
Geositta leucopsis, 266
Geranospizias caerulescens, 81
,, *gracilis*, 81
gigas, Dac. 229
gilvicollis, Mic. 81
ginginianus, Acr. 99
Glaucidium phalaenoides, 106
glaucus, Tha. 225
Glyphorhynchus cuneatus, 266
gouldiae, Poe. 11, 196
govinda, Mil. 161
gracilipes, Tyr. 128
gracilis, Ger. 81
Graculus eremita, 33
Grallaria brevicauda, 226
,, *macularia*, 226

Grallaria varia, 226
Grallaricula nana, 226
grammatica, Jum. 175.
grandis, Nyc. 106
grisea, For. 225
guatemalae, Sco. 105
guianensis, Mor. 80
,, *Psi.* 172, 192
,, *Sya.* 266
gulginosa, Den. 266
guttata, Myr. 225
,, *Ste.* 194
guttatoides, Den. 266
gutturalis, Myr. 225
Gymnopithys rufigula, 225
Gyparchus papa, 80

H.

Habrura pectoralis, 128
haematocephala, Xan. 160
haematodus, Thi. 192
haematonotus, Pse. 192, 193
hahni, Ara. 171
haliaetus, Pan. 80
Haplocercus striaticeps, 128
Harpagus bidentatus, 82
,, *didon*, 82
harpygia, Tha. 80
henti, Uro. 171
Herpetheres cachinnans, 81
Heterospizias meridionalis, 81
Horizopus ardesiacus, 128
hulula, Cir. 106
Hydropsalis schomburghii, 106
Hylexetestes perroti, 266
hyperrhynchus, Buc. 147
Hyphantornis abyssinicus, 268
,, *brachypterus*, 269
,, *cucullatus*, 268
,, *melanocephalus*, 268
,, *olivaceus*, 268
,, *vitellinus*, 269
Hypocnemis cantator, 226
,, *flavescens*, 226
,, *lepidonota*, 226
,, *leucophrys*, 226
Hypocnemis melanopogon, 226
,, *poecilonota*, 226

I.

Ibycter americanus, 81
,, *ater*, 81
Icteridae, 43
icterotis, Pla. 193
Ictinia plumbea, 81
inda, Cer. 148
indica, Car. 196
,, *Xan.* 67
inerme, Orn. 128
inornatus, Myr 225
inscriptus, Pl. 173
insignis, Thi. 225
intermedius, Eul. 98
isabellina, Cer. 82
,, *Tin.* 82

J.

Jacamaralcyon tridactyla, 149
Jacamerops aurea, 149
jamaicensis, Lep. 69, 195
,, *Nyc.* 106
javensis, Pla. 59
Jumana elegans, 175
,, *grammatica*, 175
,, *rufus*, 175

K.

kirki, Vei. 175
kundoo, Ori. 33

L.

Lampronessa sponsa, 176, 226
Larus marinus, 226
larvata, Par. 194
laticauda, Col. 262
Legatus albicollis, 128
lepidonota, Hyp. 226
lepidotus, Pic. 175

Leptodon cayennensis, 81
Leptopogon amaurocephalus, 128
,, nigrifrons, 128
Leptoptila jamacensis, 69, 195
leucocephala, Aru. 128
,, Col. 69
leucogaster, Gal. 149
leuconotus, Cop. 128
leucophrys, Hyp. 226
,, Zon. 196
leucopsis, Bra. 227
leucoptera, Mel. 50
Leucopternis albicollis, 81
,, melanops, 81
leucopthalmus, Con. 171
leucopyga, Nyc. 106
leucopygus, Ros. 81
leucostigma, Scl. 226
leucurus, Ela. 81
lictor, Pit. 127
lineatus, Ceo. 175
,, Cym. 225
Linura fischeri, 239
littoralis, Och. 128
Lochmias nematura, 266
longicauda, Den. 266
longicaudatus, Nyc. 106
longipennis, Myr. 225
longirostris, Nas. 266
lophotes, Ocy. 68, 176, 226
lugubris, Bra. 149
Lurocalis semitorquatus, 106
luteiventris, Myr. 127
luteola, Pyc. 188
luzonica, Phl. 69

M.

macao, Ara. 171
macavaanna, Ara. 171
macrorhynchus, Buc. 147
macularia, Gra. 226
maculatum, Tod. 128
maculosus, Cir. 81.
magnirostris, Rup. 81
major, Cro. 174
major, Dig. 267
,, Tha. 225
malabarica, Mun. 196
,, Aid. 244
Malacoptila fusca, 147
marinus, L. 226
Mecocerculus leucophrys, 128
Megalaema caniceps, 66
Megarhynchus pitangua, 127
melaleucus, Spi. 80
Melanerpes cruentatus, 175
,, rubrifrons, 175
melancholius, Tyr. 127
melanocephalus, Hyp. 268
,, Pio. 172
melanocorphus, Coc. 174
melanoleucus, Cam. 175
,, Mic. 81
melanops, Leu. 81
melanoptera, Hyp. 226
,, Pia. 174
melanura, Eop. 181
melanurus, Tro. 150
Meleagris americana, 227
Melopelia leucoptera, 50
Melopsittacus undulatus, 226
menstruus, Pio. 171
meridionalis, Het. 81
,, Tro. 150
Merula merula, 87
merula, Den. 266
,, Mer. 87
,, Tur. 87
Micrastur gilvicollis, 81
,, melanoleucus, 81
,, mirandollei, 81
,, ruficollis, 81
Microtribonyx ventralis, 17
Milvus govinda, 161
minor, Coc. 174
minuta, Pia. 174
minutus, Pic. 175
Mionectes oleaginus, 128
mirandollei, Mic. 81
Milvago chima-chima, 81
mocinno, Pha. 150

modesta, Psi. 172
Momotus momotus, 148
Monasa nigra, 147
montifringilla, Fri. 234
Morpheus guianensis, 80
multicolor, Pse. 192
multiguttata, Den. 266
Munia castaneithorax, 195, 244
,, *malabarica,* 244
,, *punctulata,* 188
Muscivora tryannus, 127
musica, Cri. 156
Myiarchus ferox, 128
,, *pelzelni,* 128
,, *phaeonotus,* 128
,, *tyrannula,* 128
Myiobius barbatus, 128
,, *erythrurus,* 128
,, *naevius,* 128
,, *roraimiae,* 128
Myiophagus gaimardi, 128
,, *ruficeps,* 128
Myiophoneus tememincki, 35
Myiopatis semifusca, 128
Myozetetes cayennensis, 127
,, *luteiventris,* 127
,, *sulphureus,* 127
Myriodynastes audax, 127
,, *solitarius,* 127
Myrmotherula axillaris, 225
,, *cineriventris,* 225
,, *dorsimaculata,* 225
,, *gutturalis,* 225
,, *guttata,* 225
,, *inornatus,* 225
,, *longipennis,* 225
,, *pygmea,* 225
,, *pyrrhonota,* 225
,, *surinamensis,* 225
,, *unicolor,* 225
mystaceus, Pla. 128

N.

nacunda, Pod. 106
naevia, Sel. 226
naevius, Dip. 174
,, *Myi.* 128
,, *Tha.* 225
nana, Gra. 226
napensis, Cer. 225
Nasica longirostris, 266
natteri, Sel. 173
nematus, Loc. 266
Neophema bourkei, 192
,, *petrophila,* 193
,, *venusta,* 193, 251
Neomorphus rufipennis, 174
niger, Cap. 147
nigra, Mon. 147
nigrescens, Cap. 106
nigricollis, Bus. 81
nigrifrons, For. 226
,, *Lep.* 128
nitida, Ast. 81
novae-hollandiae, Cal. 196
,, ,, *Tri.* 12
,, *-zealandiae, Cya.* 191
nycthemurus, Gen. 227
Nyctidromus albicollis, 106
Nyctibius grandis, 106
,, *jamaicensis,* 106
,, *longicaudatus,* 106
Nyctiprogne leucopyga, 106

O.

ochrocephala, Ama. 171
,, *Chr.* 171
Ochthornis littoralis, 128
Oena capensis, 49
oleaginus, Mio. 128
olivacea, Den. 266
olivaceus, Hyp. 268
olivina, Ela. 127
olivus, Emp. 128
Onychorhynchus regia, 128
ordi, Buc. 147
Oreotyx pictus, 21
Oriolus kundoo, 33
,, *trailii,* 33
Ornithion acre, 128
,, *inerme,* 128

Ortyx, 21
,, *pectoralis*, 21
,, *pictus*, 23
oryx, Pyr. 249
osculans, Rha. 172

P.

pagana, Ela. 127
Palaeornis cyanocephala, 193
,, *torquata*, 193
palpebrosa, Zos. 32
Pandion haliaetus, 80
panychloris, Bol. 171
papa, Gyp. 80
paradisea, Ste. 239
,, *Uro.* 149
pardalota, Den. 266
Paroaria larvata, 194
parvus, Pit. 127
passerina, Psi. 172
passerinus, Vei. 175
pavoninus, Dro. 174
pectoralis, Ast. 82
,, *Col.* 21
,, *Hab.* 128
perlata, Str. 106
pelzelni, Dry. 226
,, *Myi.* 128
perniger, Cat. 81
,, *Rhi.* 81
perroti, Hyl. 266
personatus, Tro. 150
perspicillata, Pul. 105
perspicillatum, Syr. 109
petrophila, Neo. 193
phaeonota, Col. 156, 176
,, *Myi.* 128
phalaenoides, Gla. 106
Phaps chalcoptera, 70
,, *elegans*, 70
Phasianus colchicus, 227
Philydor cervicalis, 266
,, *erythrocercus*, 266
,, *pyrrhodes*, 266
Phlogoenas luzonica, 69
Phlogopsis erythroptera, 226
phoenicotis, Est. 11
Phonipara canora, 11, 226
Phrygilus fruticeti, 90
Piaya cayana, 174
,, *melanogastra*, 174
,, *minuta*, 174
pica, Flu. 128
Picolaptes albolineatus, 266
,, *puncticeps*, 266
pictum, Tod. 128
Picumnus cirrhatus, 175
,, *lepidotus*, 175
,, *minutus*, 175
,, *spilogaster*, 175
,, *undulatus*, 175
picus, Den. 266
pileata, Zon. 156, 226, 227
pileatus, Acc. 82
Pionities melanocephalus, 172
Pionopsittacus caica, 172
Pionus fuscus, 171
,, *menstruus*, 171
piperivora, Sel. 173
pitangua, Meg. 127
Pitangus lictor, 127
,, *parvus*, 127
,, *sulphuratus*, 127
plagosus, Den. 266
Planchesia fusca, 128
Platycercus eximius, 11
,, *flaviventris*, 191
,, *icterotis*, 193
Platyrhynchus mystaceus, 128
Ploceus baya, 270
,, *javanensis*, 59
plumbea, Ict. 81
pluricinctus, Pte. 173
Podager macunda, 106
poecilonota, Hyp. 226
Poephila acuticauda, 196
,, *gouldiae*, 11, 196
Poliopsar malabaricus, 196
Polyborus cheriway, 81
,, *tharus*, 81
polysticta, Den. 266
Polytelis barrabandi, 193
Porphyrocephalus spurius, 193
prasina, Ery. 10
Pratincola caprata, 5

Psephotus dissimilis, 192
,, *haematonotus*, 192, 193
,, *multicolor*, 192
,, *pulcherrimus*, 251
psittacea, *Ery*. 226
Psittacidae, 171
Psittacula guianensis, 172, 192
,, *modesta*, 172
,, *passerina*, 172
Pteroglossus, 42
,, *aracari*, 173
,, *inscriptus*, 173
,, *pluripunctus*, 173
,, *viridis*, 173
pulcherrimus, *Pse*. 251
Pulsatrix perspicillata, 105
,, *torquata*, 105
puncticeps, *Pic*. 266
punctigula, *Chr*. 175
punctulata, *Mun*. 188
purpurata, *Uro*. 171
Pycnonotus luteola, 188
pygmea, *Myr*. 225
Pyrocephalus rubineus, 127
Pyromelana afra, 248
,, *flammiceps*, 248
,, *oryx*, 249
,, *taha*, 248
pyrrhodes, *Phi*. 266
pyrrhonota, *Myr*. 225
Pyrrhula erythrocephala, 195
Pyrrhulauda, leucotis, 133
,, *smithii*, 175
Pyrrhura egregia, 171
,, *picta*, 171

Q.

Quelea erythrocephala, 270
,, *quelea*, 249

R.

radiolatus, *Den*. 266
Rallina superciliaris, 82
regia, *Ony*. 128
,, *Tet*. 237
reichenbachi, *Cel*. 175
Rhamphastos, 42
,, *culminatus*, 45
,, *cuvieri*, 45
,, *dicolorus*, 172
,, *erythrorhynchus*, 172
,, *osculans*, 172
,, *toco*, 172
,, *vitellinus*, 172
Rhamphocaenus albiventris, 225
,, *collaris*, 225
Rhea darwini, 219
Rhinogryphus aura, 81
,, *burrovianus*, 81
,, *perniger*, 81
Rhopoterpe torquata, 225
Rhynchoclus flaviventris, 128
,, *ruficauda*, 128
risorious, *Tur*. 272
Rogerhinus cayennensis, 81
,, *uncinatus*, 81
roraimae, *Myi*. 128
,, *Sco*. 105
roscicapilla, *Cac*. 232
roseicollis, *Aga*. 196
rostratus, *Tyr*. 127
Rostrhamus leucopygus, 81
,, *sociabilis*, 81
rostripallens, *Den*. 266
rubiginosus, *Chl*. 175
rubineus, *Pyr*. 127
rubricollis, *Cam*. 175
rubrifrons, *Mel*. 175
ruficauda, *Gal*. 149
,, *Rhy*. 128
ruficeps, *Myi*. 128
,, *Sta*. 9
ruficervix, *Sta*. 106
ruficollis, *Mic*. 81
,, *Tha*. 225
rufigula, *Grym*. 225
rufipennis, *Neo*. 174
rufus, *Cap*. 106
,, *Jum*. 175
Rupornis magnirostris, 81
russatus, *Fus*. 128

S.

salvani, Emp. 128
sanguinea, Vei. 175
saturata, Scl. 226
Sayornis cineracea, 128
schistaceus, Dys. 225
schomburghii, Hyd. 106
sclateri, Aud. 266
Sclateria leucostigma, 226
  ,, *naevia,* 226
  ,, *saturata,* 226
Scops asio, 105
  ,, *atricapilla,* 105
  ,, *brasiliana,* 105
  ,, *guatemalae,* 105
  ,, *roraimae,* 105
Selenidera nattereri, 173
  ,, *piperivora,* 173
Sclerurus, caudacutus, 266
semifuscus, Myi. 128
semitorquatus, Tur. 68
senegalensis, Tur. 50, 272
septentrionalis, Tri. 215
severa, Ari. 171
Sitagra galbula, 268
  ,, *luteola,* 269
smithii, Pyr. 175
sociabilis, Ros. 81
solitarius, Myr. 127
solstitialis, Con. 171
sonnerati, Ral. 227
sparvaria, Cer. 82
  ,, *Tin.* 82
Spathopterus alexandrae, 82, 193
Speotyto cunicularia, 106
Sphenocercus sphenurus, 71, 157, 196
sphenurus, Sph. 71, 157, 196
spilogaster, Pic. 175
spiza, Chl. 267
Spiziaster melanoleucus, 80
  ,, *tyrannus,* 80
splendens, Cor. 159
spodionotus, Dys. 225
spodioptila, Ter. 225
sponsa, Lam. 176, 226
spurius, Por. 193
Stachyrhidopsis ruficeps, 9
Steatornis caripensis, 106
Steganopleura guttata, 194
Steganura paradisea, 239
stellaris, Tha. 225
Stenopsis cayennensis, 106
  ,, *ruficorax,* 106
stictoptera, Cer. 148
Stictoptera annulosa, 254
  ,, *bichenovii,* 195, 254
Stictospiza formosa, 60
striata, Ge. 47, 226
striaticeps, Hap. 128
Strix flammea, 106
  ,, *perlata,* 106
Sturnopastor contra, 160
subniger, Acc. 82
sulcatus, Aul. 173
sulcirostris, Cro. 174
sulphuratus, Pit. 127
sulphurea, Cac. 232
  ,, *Myr.* 127
superciliaris, Ral. 82
superciliosa, Cer. 148
suprocurvirostris, Xip. 266
surinamensis, Myr. 225
sutorius, Ort. 7
swainsoni, Dry. 226
  ,, *Tri.* 257
Synallaxis albescens, 266
  ,, *adusta,* 266
  ,, *brunneicaudalis,* 266
  ,, *cinnamomea,* 266
  ,, *frontalis,* 266
  ,, *guianensis,* 266
Syrnium perspicillatum, 109

T.

Tachytriorchis abbreviatus, 81
  ,, *albicaudatus,* 81
Taeniopygia castanotis, 175, 226
taha, Pyr. 248
talpacoti, Cha. 195

tamatia, Buc. 147
tectis, Buc. 147
temmincki, Den. 266
,, *Myi.* 35
temporalis, Aeg. 3
tenebrosa, Chel. 147
Terenura spodioptila, 225
Tetraenura regia, 237
Thamnomanes glaucus, 225
Thamnophilus cinereinucha, 225
,, *cinereo-niger,* 225
,, *cirrhatus,* 225
,, *doliatus,* 225
,, *insignis,* 225
,, *major,* 225
,, *murinus,* 225
,, *naevius,* 225
,, *ruficollis,* 225
,, *stellaris,* 225
,, *viridis,* 225
tharus, Pol. 81
Thraetus harpygia, 80
tigrinus, Tur. 50
Tinnunculus isabellina, 82
,, *sparvaria,* 82
tinus, Acc. 82
tiphia, Aeg. 83
tirica, Bro. 171
toco, Rha. 172
Todirostrum cinereum, 128
,, *maculatum,* 128
,, *pictum,* 128
torquata, Cerc. 175
,, *Cery.* 148
,, *Pal.* 193
,, *Pul.* 105
torquatus, Rho. 225
trailli, Ori. 33
tranquilla, Geo. 47
Trichoglossus haematodus, 192
,, *novae-hollandiae,* 12
,, *sepentrionalis,* 215
,, *swainsoni,* 192, 257
tridactyla, Jac. 149
tristis, Aer. 160
trochilirostris, Xip. 266
Trogon atricollis, 150
,, *melanurus,* 150
,, *meriodionalis,* 150
,, *personata,* 150
,, *viridis,* 150
tuipara, Bro. 171
turdinus, Aut. 266
Turdus merula, 87
Turtur risorious, 236, 272
,, *semitorquatus,* 68
,, *senegalensis,* 50, 272
,, *tigrinus,* 50
tyrannina, Cer. 225
Tyranniscus gracilipes, 128
Tyrannulus elatus, 128
tyrannulus, Myi. 128
Tyrannus melancholius, 127
,, *rostratus,* 127
tyrannus, Mus. 127
,, *Spi.* 80

U.

uncinatus, Rog. 81
undulatus, Mel. 226
,, *Pic.* 175
unicolor, Myr. 225
Urochroma cingulata, 171
,, *henti,* 171
,, *purpurata,* 171
Urogalba paradisea, 149
Urubitinga anthracina, 81
,, *urubitinga,* 81
urubu, Cat. 80

V.

varia, Gra. 226
varius, Emp. 128
Veiliornis cassini, 175
,, *kirki,* 175
,, *passerinus,* 175
,, *sanguineus,* 175
ventralis, Mic. 17
venusta, Neo, 193, 251
Vidua hypocherina, 210

Vidua principalis, 212
  ,, *serena*, 211
violaceus, *Cya.* 106
virens, *Zos* .156
virgata, *Cic.* 105
virginianus, *Bub.* 105
  ,, *Col.* 21
viridis, *Cal.* 149
  ,, *Gec.* 85
  ,, *Pte.* 173
  ,, *Tha.* 225
  ,. *Tro.* 150
vitellinus, *Hyp.* 269
  ,, *Rha.* 172

W.

whiteleyanus, *Aul.* 173

X.

Xantholoema haematocephala, 160
  ,, *indica*, 67
Xenops genibarbis, 266
Xiphorhynchus subprocurvirostris, 266
  ,, *trochilirostris*, 266

Z.

Zenaida amabilis, 50
  ,, *auriculata*, 156. 227
  ,, *aurita*, 50
Zonotrichia albicollis, 56
  ,, *leucophrys*, 196
  ,, *pileata*, 156, 226, 227
zosterops, *Fus.* 128
Zosterops palpebrosa, 32
  ,, *virens*, 156

Index to Inset (Pink Pages).

Bird Market, 15 ,24, 25, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 37, 40, 42, 44.
Breeding Medal Regulations, 21.
Changes and Corrections of Address, 23, 29, 33, 36, 41, 44.
Committees, 17.
Correspondence, 39.
Club's Breeding Medal, 43.
Correction, 43.
Donations, 15, 23, 25, 28, 29, 32, 33, 35, 37, 40, 41.
Illustration and Deficit Funds, 15, 23, 25, 28, 29, 32, 33, 35, 37, 40, 41.
Is the Pintail Whydah Parasitic?, 39.
Members' Roll, 2—14.
New Members, 15, 24, 25, 27, 29, 32, 33, 35, 37.
Notices to Members, 15, 22, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43.
Obituary, 24.
Officers of the Club, 1.
Rules, 18—20.
Show Rules, 20—1.

S.

salvani, Emp. 128
sanguinea, Vei. 175
saturata, Scl. 226
Sayornis cineracea, 128
schistaceus, Dys. 225
schomburghii, Hyd. 106
sclateri, Aud. 266
Sclateria leucostigma, 226
,, *naevia,* 226
,, *saturata,* 226
Scops asio, 105
,, *atricapilla,* 105
,, *brasiliana,* 105
,, *guatemalae,* 105
,, *roraimae,* 105
Selenidera nattereri, 173
,, *piperivora,* 173
Selerurus, caudacutus, 266
semifuscus, Myi. 128
semitorquatus, Tur. 68
senegalensis, Tur. 50, 272
septentrionalis, Tri. 215
severa, Ari. 171
Sitagra galbula, 268
,, *luteola,* 269
smithii, Pyr. 175
sociabilis, Ros. 81
solitarius, Myr. 127
solstitialis, Con. 171
sonnerati, Ral. 227
sparvaria, Cer. 82
,, *Tur.* 82
Spathopterus alexandrae, 82, 193
Speotyto cunicularia, 106
Sphenocercus sphenurus, 71, 157, 196
sphenurus, Sph. 71, 157, 196
spilogaster, Pic. 175
spiza, Chl. 267
Spiziaster melanoleucus, 80
,, *tyrannus,* 80
splendens, Cor. 159
spodionotus, Dys. 225
spodioptila, Ter. 225
sponsa, Lam. 176, 226
spurius, Por. 193
Stachyrhidopsis ruficeps, 9
Steatornis caripensis, 106
Steganopleura guttata, 194
Steganura paradisea, 239
stellaris, Tha. 225
Stenopsis cayennensis, 106
,, *ruficorax,* 106
stictoptera, Cer. 148
Stictoptera annulosa, 254
,, *bichenovii,* 195, 254
Stictospiza formosa, 60
striata, Ge. 47, 226
striaticeps, Hap. 128
Strix flammea, 106
,, *perlata,* 106
Sturnopastor contra, 160
subniger, Acc. 82
sulcatus, Aul. 173
sulcirostris, Cro. 174
sulphuratus, Pit. 127
sulphurea, Cac. 232
,, *Myr.* 127
superciliaris, Ral. 82
superciliosa, Cer. 148
suprocurvirostris, Xip. 266
surinamensis, Myr. 225
sutorius, Ort. 7
swainsoni, Dry. 226
,, *Tri.* 257
Synallaxis albescens, 266
,, *adusta,* 266
,, *brunneicaudalis,* 266
,, *cinnamomea,* 266
,, *frontalis,* 266
,, *guianensis,* 266
Syrnium perspicillatum, 109

T.

Tachytriorchis abbreviatus, 81
,, *albicaudatus,* 81
Taeniopygia castanotis, 175, 226
taha, Pyr. 248
talpacoti, Cha. 195

tamatia, Buc. 147
tectis, Buc. 147
temmincki, Den. 266
,, *Myi.* 35
temporalis, Aeg. 3
tenebrosa, Chel. 147
Terenura spodioptila, 225
Tetraenura regia, 237
Thamnomanes glaucus, 225
Thamnophilus cincreinucha, 225
,, *cinereo-niger,* 225
,, *cirrhatus,* 225
,, *doliatus,* 225
,, *insignis,* 225
,, *major,* 225
,, *murinus,* 225
,, *naevius,* 225
,, *ruficollis,* 225
,, *stellaris,* 225
,, *viridis,* 225
tharus, Pol. 81
Thraetus harpygia, 80
tigrinus, Tur. 50
Tinnunculus isabellina, 82
,, *sparvaria,* 82
tinus, Acc. 82
tiphia, Aeg. 83
tirica, Bro. 171
toco, Rha. 172
Todirostrum cinereum, 128
,, *maculatum,* 128
,, *pictum,* 128
torquata, Cerc. 175
,, *Cery.* 148
,, *Pal.* 193
,, *Pul.* 105
torquatus, Rho. 225
trailli, Ori. 33
tranquilla, Geo. 47
Trichoglossus haematodus, 192
,, *novae-hollandiae,* 12
,, *sepentrionalis,* 215
,, *swainsoni,* 192, 257
tridactyla, Jac. 149
tristis, Aer. 160
trochilirostris, Xip. 266
Trogon atricollis, 150
,, *melanurus,* 150
,, *meriodionalis,* 150
,, *personata,* 150
,, *viridis,* 150
tuipara, Bro. 171
turdinus, Aut. 266
Turdus merula, 87
Turtur risorious, 236, 272
,, *semitorquatus,* 68
,, *senegalensis,* 50, 272
,, *tigrinus,* 50
tyrannina, Cer. 225
Tyranniscus gracilipes, 128
Tyrannulus elatus, 128
tyrannulus, Myi. 128
Tyrannus melancholius, 127
,, *rostratus,* 127
tyrannus, Mus. 127
,, *Spi.* 80

U.

uncinatus, Rog. 81
undulatus, Mel. 226
,, *Pic.* 175
unicolor, Myr. 225
Urochroma cingulata, 171
,, *henti,* 171
,, *purpurata,* 171
Urogalba paradisea, 149
Urubitinga anthracina, 81
,, *urubitinga,* 81
urubu, Cat. 80

V.

varia, Gra. 226
varius, Emp. 128
Veiliornis cassini, 175
,, *kirki,* 175
,, *passerinus,* 175
,, *sanguineus,* 175
ventralis, Mic. 17
venusta, Neo. 193, 251
Vidua hypocherina, 210

Vidua principalis, 212
  ,, *serena*, 211
violaceus, *Cya.* 106
virens, *Zos* .156
virgata, *Cic.* 105
virginianus, *Bub.* 105
  ,, *Col.* 21
viridis, *Cal.* 149
  ,, *Gec.* 85
  ,, *Ptc.* 173
  ,, *Tha.* 225
  ,, *Tro.* 150
vitellinus, *Hyp.* 269
  ,, *Rha.* 172

W.

whitelcyanus, *Aul.* 173

X.

Xantholoema haematocephala, 160
  ,, *indica*, 67
Xenops genibarbis, 266
Xiphorhynchus subprocurvirostris, 266
  ,, *trochilirostris*, 266

Z.

Zenaida amabilis, 50
  ,, *auriculata*, 156, 227
  ,, *aurita*, 50
Zonotrichia albicollis, 56
  ,, *leucophrys*, 196
  ,, *pileata*, 156, 226, 227
zosterops, *Fus.* 128
Zosterops palpebrosa, 32
  ,, *virens*, 156

Index to Inset (Pink Pages).

Bird Market, 15 ,24, 25, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 37, 40, 42, 44.
Breeding Medal Regulations, 21.
Changes and Corrections of Address, 23, 29, 33, 36, 41, 44.
Committees, 17.
Correspondence, 39.
Club's Breeding Medal, 43.
Correction, 43.
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Is the Pintail Whydah Parasitic?, 39.
Members' Roll, 2—14.
New Members, 15, 24, 25, 27, 29, 32, 33, 35, 37.
Notices to Members, 15, 22, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43.
Obituary, 24.
Officers of the Club, 1.
Rules, 18—20.
Show Rules, 20—1.

JANUARY, 1917.

The Foreign Bird Club.

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H. Willford, Upland View, Havenstreet, Ryde.

Roll of Members.

Honorary Member:

FILMER, H. R., (*Founder*), Brendon, 22, Harrington Road, Brighton.

ACTON, G. H., Bytham, Kidmore Road, Caversham, Reading. (February, 1914).
ALDERSON, Miss R., Park House, Worksop. (March, 1909).
ALLAN, J. W., Bondgate, Alnwick. (April, 1911).
ALMOND, The Rev. F., Dormant. (February, 1906).
ALT, Mrs., M., 28, Melrose Gardens, Hammersmith, London, W. (April, 1914).
AMES, Mrs. HOBART, North Easton, Massachussetts, U.S.A. (March, 1913).
AMOR, STANLEY, c/o Long and Sons, Railway Road; Bath. (February, 1916).
AMSLER, Dr. MAURICE, Eton Court House, High Street, Eton, Windsor. (March, 1909).
ANDERSON, J. H., 20, Hoghton Street, Southport. (February, 1914).
ANDREWS, F. J., Gordon House, Woodbridge. (December, 1911).
ANNINGSON, Mrs., 4, The Cresent, The Park, Plymouth. (December, 1901).
APPLEBY, K. A., Dormant. (October, 1910).
ARMSTRONG, Mrs. A. M., Newton Purcell Rectory, Buckingham. (November, 1915).
ARNOLD, R., Tower House, Leigham Court Road, Streatham, London, S.W. (March, 1912).
ARNOTT, PETER, Grant Street, Alloa. (December, 1913).
ARRIGHI, L. J., Harrison View, Watson Cresent, Edinburgh. (March, 1908)
ASTON, Capt. S. WILFRED, Manor House, Trensham, Farnham. (September, 1915).
ATTWELL, HAROLD E., Cassia Grove, Halfway Tree, P.O., Kingston, Jamaica, B.W.I. (March, 1910).
AUSTIN, W. E., Wandsworth Public Libriaries, Allfarthing Lane, Wandsworth, London, S.W. (April, 1909).
BADDELEY, A., 21, Derby Street, Hulme, Manchester. (July, 1912).
BAILY, W. SHORE, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts. (June, 1909).
BAINBRIDGE, Lieut., W. A., Hazelwood, Thorpe, Chertsey. (September, 1912).
BAINES, R., 6 Toronto Street, Monk's Road, Lincoln. (February, 1916).
BAKER, Mrs. H. G., Brookfields House, Swinton, Yorks. (December, 1914).
BAMFORD, WM., The Coppice, Werneth, Oldham. (June, 1904).

BAMFYLDE, The Hon. Mrs., Whitechapel Manor, South Molton, North Devon. (July, 1911).

BARLOW-MASSICKS, Mrs. C., Dormant. (November, 1911).

BARNBY, Miss ALISON, Oak Lodge, Bitterne, Southampton. (August, 1912).

BARNARD T. T., Kempston Hoo, Bedford. (July, 1915).

BATTY Lieut., W. R. 15, Alexander Road, Southport. (October, 1915).

BEATY S., Strathnarn, Elm Grove, Alderley Edge, Manchester. (March, 1908)

BEAZON Rev. J. T. A. LOVELL, The Nest, Bicclescombe Park, Ilfracombe. (April, 1911).

BEEBE, C. W., Curator of Ornithology, New York Zoological Park, New York City, U.S.A. (July, 1911).

BENTLEY ERNEST E., St. Mary's Lodge, Louth. (March, 1914).

BLISS, H. E., Church Street, Middleburg, Cape Colony, S. Africa. (January, 1903).

BONHOTE J. L., Esq., M.A., F.Z.S., The Zoo, Cairo, Egypt: (May, 1916)

BOTTING H., Address unknown. (December, 1908).

BOURKE HON. Mrs. GWENDOLEN, Hitcham Vale, Taplow, Maidenhead, and 75, Gloucester Place, Portman Square, London, W. (December, 1909).

BOUSFIELD, Miss M., Avon Court, Southborne Road, Bournemouth (January, 1908).

BOWERMAN, F., 12, Wellington Street, Swindon. (September, 1914).

BOWRING Miss CLARA, Ascot Heath Lodge, Ascot, Berks. (July, 1914).

BOYD, HAROLD, Box 374, Ketowna, Brit. Columbia, Canada. (April, 1903).

BRANFOOT, B., Dormant. (November, 1912).

BRIGHT, HERBERT, Lynton, Eaton Road, Cressington Park, Liverpool. (October 1911).

BROOK E. J., F.Z.S., Hoddam Castle, Ecclefechan. (March, 1908).

BROWN, Mrs. C., Dormant. (May, 1910).

BROWNING, W. H., 16, Cooper Square, New York, U.S.A. (February, 1910).

BROWNE, Capt. A. E., Belmont, Muree, Punjab, India. (March, 1912).

BRUCE, Miss A., Chevet Park, Wakefield. (March, 1909).

BUFTON, REGINALD P., Caerhyn, Llandrindod Wells. (January, 1913).

BURGESS, Mrs., Kingsweir, 52, Clarendon Road, Redlands, Bristol. (September, 1915).

BURNHAM JOHN B., President A.G.P. and P. Ass., Trinity Buildings, 111, Broadway, New York, U.S.A. (March, 1913).

BUSH, W., The County Bor. of Newport School of Art, Clarence Street, Newport, Mon. (May, 1909).

CALVERT, Mrs. H., The Ridge, Kasuli, Punjab, India. (July, 1915).

CALVOCARESI, P. J., Holme Hay, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool. (Oct., 1916).

CAMPBELL Mrs., Constance, 192, Walpole Road, Wimbledon, London. S.W.
CAMPS, H. T., F.Z.S., Linden House, Haddenham, Ely. (Orig. Mem.):
CAPERN, F., Lewin's Mead, Bristol. (October, 1907).
CARR. F. J., St. Aidan's, Alnwick, (April, 1914).
CARR J T., Blythewood, Deramere Drive, Malone Road, Belfast. (September. 1912).
CARTWRIGHT, Mrs. E., Bretton Lodge, Wakefield. (January, 1912).
CASTELLO, P. M., 20, Chalfont Court, London, N.W. (November, 1916).
CASTLE-GANT, Mrs. A., Park Lodge, East Hoathly; Halland; Sussex. (June 1915).
CHANNING-PEARCE, J., M.D., etc., Montague House, Ramsgate. (January, 191
CHAPLIN, Mrs. DRUMMOND, Government House, Salisbury, Rhodesia. (July, 1914).
CHAPLIN, E. W., The Firs, Great Amwell; Ware. (Sept.; 1903).
CHARLES, J., Stone House, Doncaster. (February, 1914).
CHARLESWORTH, Miss AUDRY, Marnhull Rectory, Sturminster Newton, Dorset. (July, 1914).
CHATTERTON, Mrs., 11, Fairfield Road, Crouch End, London, N. (January, 1915).
CHAWNER, Miss E. F., Forest Bank, Lyndhurst, Hants. (July, 1910).
CHICK, HERBERT J., 39A., Radford Road, Nottingham. (March, 1914).
CHRISTIE. Mrs. G., Newton House, Elgin. (January. 1913).
CLARE. Miss LYDIA, The Hollies, 194, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, London. S.W. (March, 1910).
CLARK. W. G., Hummers Knott, Windsor Road, Slough. (January, 1915).
CLARKE, S., Inces., Scaynes Hill, Hayward's Heath. (August, 1911).
CLEEBERG, CHAS., junr., 16 Lockerbie Road, Dumfries, N.B. (Dec., 1916).
CLIFTON. Lord. Dormant. (October, 1905).
COLTON. R., 9, Birkendale Road, Sheffield. (February, 1913).
CONNELL, Mrs. KNATCHBULL, The Orchard, Brockenhurst, Hants, (July, 1912).
CONSTABLE, Rev. W. J., Dormant. (February, 1912).
COOK Mrs. A. M., 21, Oxford Road, Kilburn, N.W. (February, 1916).
CROKER, Chas. E., Burrow Inch, Lower Bourne, Farnham. (October, 1911).
CRONKSHAW. J., Red Croft, Hollin's Lane, Accrington. (Nov., 1901).
CROSS, R., Northumberland Park, Tottenham, London, N. (January, 1914).
CROW, C. F., Lindsey Bank House, Grimsby. (October, 1915).
CURRIE, J., 128, Willowbrae Road, Edinburgh. (August, 1913).
CUSHNY. Charles, c/o Messrs. Neish, Howell, and Haldane, 47, Watling Street, St. Paul's, E.C. (Orig. Mem.).
DARRELL, Dr. H. W., Adelaide House, All Saints' Green, Norwich. (September, 1908.
DAVIDSON, Mrs., Dormant. (April, 1911).

DAVIES Mrs. M. H., Daresbury Hall, near Warrington. (January, 1914).
DAWSON-SMITH, Lt. F., Nash Rectory, Stony Stratford, Bucks. (March, 1912)
DELL, C. E., 12, High Street, Harlesden, London, N.W. (January, 1914).
DENNIS, Mrs. HAROLD, St. Leonard's Park, Horsham. (January, 1904).
DEWAR. D., I.C.S., F.Z.S., 33, Sheepcote Road, Harrow. (June 1907)
DEWAR, J. F., 2, St. Patrick's Square. Edinburgh. (Orig. Mem.).
DE YARBURG-BATESON, The Hon. LILLA, Heslington, York. (June, 1903).
DITCHFIELD, F., 37, Nugget Street, Oldham. (April, 1914).
DOBBIE, J., Waverley Works, Leith, Edinburgh. (April, 1906).
DOBSON W. B. C., Lindown, Hampton Wick. (April, 1914).
DRUMMOND Miss, Mains of Megginch, Errol, Perthshire. (November, 1907)
DUNKLEY Mrs. H. F., Dormant. (February, 1915).
DUNLEATH, The Lady, Ballywater Park, Ballywater, co. Down. (November, 1901).
DUTTON the Hon. and Rev. Canon, "Mosborough," Grafton Road, Cheltenham. (May, 1906).
DYOTT, Capt. R. A., Freeford, Lichfield. (November, 1912).
EARLE J. HUDSON, Newgate House, Cottinham, Hull. (March, 1914).
EBRILL WM., 14, Victoria Terrace, Limerick. (April, 1906).
EDMUNDS, W., Coombe Farm, Langton Matravers, Wareham. (November, 1909).
ELMS, E. F. M., Rosebank Cottage, Carshalton Road, Sutton, Surrey. (June, 1910).
EZRA A., F.Z.S., 110, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London. (January, 1911).
EZRA, D., 3, Kyd Street, Calcutta, India. August, 1912).
FALKNER, GUY, The Cottage, Belton, Uppingham. (November, 1916).
FASEY, WILLIAM R., The Oaks, Holly Bush Hill, Snaresbrook, N.E. (January, 1903).
FERRAR, B. B., F.Z.S., Dormant. (December, 1912).
FISHER, W. H., The Bush Hotel, Farnham. (May, 1908).
FISHER-ROWE, H. M., St. Leonard's Grange, Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Hants. (January, 1911).
FLANNERY, M. J., Dormant. (January, 1909).
FLOWER, Capt. S. S., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Keedah House, Zoological Gardens, Gizeh, Egypt. (March, 1909).
FLOWER, Mrs. STANLEY, Longfield, Tring, Herts. (July, 1910).
FORSTER, W. L., Smithfield, Orange Free State, S. Africa. (May, 1914).
FOSTER T., Fairlight, Babbacombe, Devon. (March, 1914).
FOSTER, Miss E. M., 35, High Street, Huntingdon. (January, 1909).
FOWLER-WARD, Dr. F., 40, Berners Street, Ipswich. (Oct., 1913).
FREELAND, SCOTT, Hill Rise, Quarry Hill, Tonbridge. (July, 1912).
FREVILLE Miss M. N. de, Neuchatel, Neboda, Ceylon. (January, 1916).

FROST, W. J. C., 13, Fairlawn Avenue, Chiswick Park, London, W. (August, 1913).

FROSTICK, J., 303, High Road, Streatham, London, S.W. (Dec., 1909).

GALLOWAY, Mrs. E. Fernville, Fortis Green Road, East Finchley, London, N. (January, 1908).

GALLOWAY. P. F. M., 22, Rectory Road, Caversham, Reading. (November, 1907).

GARCKE, Mrs. C., Wye Lodge, Maidenhead. (June, 1916).

GARDINER, Mrs. STANLEY, Bredon House, Selwyn Gardens, Cambridge. (January, 1913).

GERRARD. Miss M., 31, Via Sarto Spirito, Florence, Italy. (June, 1914)

GODRY, EDOUARD, Dormant. (January, 1912)).

GOODACRE, HUGH, Ullesthorpe, Lutterworth. (May, 1912).

GOODCHILD, H., 59, Leslie Road, East Finchley, London, N. (July, 1903).

GOODCHILD, J., Clare, Suffolk. (January, 1913).

GOODFELLOW, W., The Poplars, Kettering. (October, 1908).

GORRINGE. The Rev. REGINALD, Manston Rectory, Sturminster Newton, Dorset. (December, 1902).

GOSSE, Capt. PHILIP M D., M.B.O.U., Curtlemead, Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Hants. (April, 1910).

GOURLAY, H., Penshurst, Shortheath, Farnham, Surrey. (November, 1907).

GRAHAM, JOHN, Rainbow Hotel, Kendal. (February, 1911).

GRAY, H., M.R.C.V.S. (*Hon. Veterinary Surgeon*), 23, Upper Phillimore Place, Kensington, London, W. (May, 1906).

GREENALL, Miss SUSAN, The Manor, Carlton Scroop, Grantham. (May, 1914).

GREEVEN Miss M., c/o Mrs. Green, 41, Clanricarde Gardens, Notting Hill Gate London, W. (October, 1907).

GROSSMITH. J. L., The Grange, Bickley, Kent. (January, 1913).

GURNEY. G. H., Keswick Hall, Norwich. (June, 1913).

HAGGIE, G. E., B.A., Brumcombe, Foxcombe Hill, Oxford. (Feb., 1910).

HALE, CLINTON B., Pedrogosa and Laguna, North West Corner, Santa Barbara, Calfiornia, U.S.A. (April, 1911).

HALKES, T. C., The Limes, 141 Monks Road, Lincoln. (July, 1916).

HAMILTON, H. V., The Rest on the Hill-side, Hythe, Kent. (April, 1916).

HARBORD, Miss M. L., Lorton Park House, Lorton, Cockermouth. (April, 1916).

HARCOURT, The Rt. Hon. LEWIS, P.C., 14, Berkeley Square, London, W. (April, 1914).

HARPER E. W., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., 17-19, Old Court House Street, Calcutta, India. (October, 1907).

HARRIS CHAS., 114, Bethnal Green Road, London, N.E. (April, 1910).

HARTLEY Mrs. E. A., Lynchfield, Bishop's Lydeard, Taunton. (September, 1907).

HARVEY P. T., 55, St. Albans Road, Seven Kings, Essex. (June, 1915).

HATCHELL, D. G., c/o. Parry and Co., Madras, India. (December, 1911).

HAWKE The Hon. M. C., c/o Miss B. Harrison, Manor House, Otton, Tadcaster. (November, 1902).

HAWKINS. J. E., Belvedere, Streetley Lane, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield. (April, 1915).

HAWKINS, L. W., Estrilda, New Clive Road, West Dulwich. (Original Member).

HEBB T. Brooklea, The Downs, Luton (August, 1912).

HENDERSON. Mrs., W. F., Moorfield, Upper Claremont, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (November, 1908).

HENDERSON. J. ALEX, Dormant. (August, 1913).

HENSTOCK J. H., Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire. (March, 1907).

HERBERT, EDWARD GREVILLE, Hemingford Abbotts, St. Ives, Hants. (January, 1915).

HETLEY Dr. HENRY, Beaufort House, 114, Church Road, Norwood, S.E. (January, 1908).

HEWITT F. W. G., The Old Hall, Weelsby, Grimsby. (April, 1909).

HINCKS, Miss E. M., Baron's Down, Dulverton, Somerset. (December, 1904).

HODGKIN Mrs., Sedbergh House, Kew Green, Surrey. (February, 1908).

HOLDEN, RALPH A., F.Z.S., 5, St. John Street, Bedford Row, London, W.C., and Harpenden, Herts. (July, 1911).

HOLLINS, Miss, Greyfriars, Preston. (February, 1906).

HOLLINS, Miss, Greyfriars, Preston. (February, 1906).

HOLLINS Mrs., The Aviaries, Coppice Drive, Harrogate. (May, 1903).

HOOPER, Miss G. M., Lansdown, West Derby, Liverpool. (February, 1915).

HOPKINSON, EMILUS, D.S.O., M.A., M.B., Oxon, South Bank, Bathhurst. Gambia, West Africa. (October, 1901).

HORTON, Miss M., Mascalls, Brentwood, Essex. (November, 1915).

HOUFTON Miss K., Dormant. (April, 1914).

HOULTON, CHARLES, Laburnum House, Denton's Green, St. Helens. (November, 1901).

HOWE, FRANK, 54, Thomas Street, Wellingborough. (February, 1902).

HUBBARD, Mrs. D. L., Dormant. (January, 1905).

HUME, JAMES, Hepscott, Morpeth. (June, 1903).

HUMPHRYS, RUSSELL, Present address unknown. (July, 1902).

HURNDALL, Mrs R., Ditton Hill Lodge, Ditton Hill, Surbiton, Surrey. (April, 1913).

HYDE WALTER, Kempton Park, Sunbury-on-Thames. (June, 1915).

ISAAC, CHAS., Brockley House, Slough. (March, 1911).

JAMRACH A. E., 180, St. George's Street, London, E. (July, 1909).

JARDINE J., Castle Inilk, Lockerbie, N.B. (August, 1913).

JEAKINS, A. E., Winscottie, Simla, India. (April, 1916).

JENKS, H., dormant. (August, 1913).

JERSEY, THE COUNTESS OF, Middleton Park, Bicester. (November, 1912).

JOHNSON, Miss L., STURTON, Orotava House, Ore, Hastings. (September, 1910).

JOHNSON, Major F., Melrose, Wilbury Road, Hove, Brighton. (August, 1911).

JONES W., YARWORTH, Villa d' Arno, Kingston-on-Thames. (August, 1915).

JORDAN, W., Hill House, Palmer's Green, London, N. (April, 1916). 1913).

KENNEDY, Capt. G., c/o Mrs. Kennedy, 7, Albion Road, Sutton, Surrey. (May, 1908).

KENWORTHY. J. M., Meadowcroft, Windermere. (June, 1909).

KING, FRANK, Dormant. (March, 1909).

KING, H. T., 11, Elm Tree Avenue, West Bridgford, Nottingham. (April, 1914).

KITE, E., BAGSHOT, Haines Hill House, Taunton. (February, 1912).

KNOBEL, Miss E. MAUD, 32, Tavistock Square, London, W.C. (December, 1911).

KOMYAKOFF, ALEXIS, Novinsky Boulevard, 109, Moscow, Russia. (Dec., 1912).

LAMB, E. J., Alverstone, Thetford Road, New Malden, Surrey. (May, 1906).

LEACH C. F., Vale Lodge, Leatherhead. (July, 1914).

LEE, Mrs. E. D. Hartwell House, Aylesbury. (September, 1910).

LEGH DE LEGH, Dr. H., Redcar, Yorks. (April, 1911).

LILFORD, The LORD, Lilford Hall, Oundle, Northants. (January, 1914).

LONGDEN, Mrs. D. A. S., Dormant. (February, 1914).

LONGDON, Mrs. C. A., Arreton Epsom Road, Guildford. (February, 1909).

LOVELL-KEAYS, Lieut. L. F., Endsleigh, East Hoathly, Halland, (March, 1913).

LOW, G. E., 14, Royal Terrace East, Kingston. (May, 1914).

LOWE A. J. C., Present address unknown. (January, 1912).

LUCAS, Miss EMMA, Bramblehurst, East Grinstead, Sussex. (Sept., 1913).

LUCAS N S., M. B., F.Z.S., 19, Westbourne Terrace, Hyde Park, London, W. (January, 1914).

LYNAM C. C., M.A., Bardswell Road, Oxford. (September, 1913).

LYTHGOE G. W. F., Camlyn, Cromwell Road, Stretford, Manchester.

McCULLOUGH, JOHN, Dormant. (January, 1914).

McDONAGH, J E. R., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.Z.S., L.I.S., 4, Wimpole Street London, W. (January, 1903).

McDONALD, D. D., Atholl Arms Hotel, Blair Atholl, N.B. (Oct., 1915).

MACKNESS, Mrs. N., Cypress Road, Church End, Finchley, N. (June, 1916).

MACREADY, F. W., 39, George Street, Stranraer. (July, 1916).

MALDEN Viscountess EVELINE, Great Bookham, Leatherhead. (August, 1909).

MALLETT E. A., M.A., Great Wishford, Salisbury. (September, 1911).

MANNERING, R., Knoll Cottage, Noah Hill, Essex. (February, 1912).

MAPPIN, STANLEY, 12, Albert Hall Mansions, Kensington Gore, South Kensington, London, S.W. (February, 1911).

MARMONT W. B., The Firs, Amberly, Stroud, Glos. (October, 1908).

MARSDEN J., Thornhurst, Tewit Park, Harrogate. (March, 1914).

MASON. D., The Maisonette, Broadstairs. (April, 1914).

MASTER. G., M.B., B.C., 86, Guildhall Street, Bury St. Edmunds. (Nov. 1903).

MAXWELL-JACKSON, Miss M., Cowhill, Rutland Road, Harrogate. (January, 1913)

MAXWELL, C. T., 1, Shardcroft Aven, Herne Hill, S.E. (December, 1908).

MEADOWS, J. C. W., 19, Cardiff Road, Luton. (February, 1908).

MEAKIN. H., 16, Dormant. (January, 1904).

MILLER Mrs K. LESLIE, Dormant. (January, 1903).

MILLSUM O., The Firs, Westwood, Margate. (July, 1907).

MINCHIN Mr., Dormant. (July, 1914).

MITCHELL. H., Haskells, Lyndhurst, Hants. (September, 1903).

MONEY Sir L. G. CHIOZZA, M.P., The Grey House, Hampstead Lane, London, N. (October, 1910).

MONTAGUE. G. R., 63, Croxted Road, Dulwich, S.E. (February, 1909).

MONTGOMERY, W. O., c/o. Mrs. Hulse, Alexandra Road, Hornsea, Hull. (January, 1913).

MORRISON The Hon. Mrs. McLAREN, Queen Anne's Mansions, St. James' Park, London, S.W. (November, 1906).

MORTIMER Mrs. Wigmore, Holmwood, Dorking. (Original Member).

MUNDY Miss SYBIL, Shipley Hall, Derby. (August, 1911).

MURTON MARSHALL, Osborne Villas, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. (August, 1913).

NAYLOR. Mrs. F. M., "Vermont," Grappenhall, Warrington. (Oct. 1915).

NELSON Mrs. L., The Wych, Sandbanks, Parkstone, Dorset. (September, 1916).

NEWLEY. R A., Dormant, (December, 1902).

NEWMAN, T. H., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Newlands, Harrowdene Road, Wembley; Middlesex. (July, 1903).

OAKEY, W., The Anglers' Inn, Pole Street, Preston. (Original Member).

OBERHOLSER, HARRY C., 1,444, Fairmont Street, N.W., Washington; D.C.. U.S.A. (December, 1903).

O'DONNELL, O., Hyntle Place, Hintlesham, Ipswich. (August, 1912).

O'DONNELL, Major-Gen. H., C.B., D.S.O., Earl, Soham, Suffolk. (October 1913).

O'REILLY NICHOLAS, S., 144, Eastern Road, Kent Town, Brighton. (Orig. Member).

ONSLOW, The Countess of, Dormant. (April, 1913).

1916).

PAGE, W. T., F.Z.S. (*Hon. Editor*), Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey. (May, 1905).

PAINTER, V. KENYON, Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A. (November, 1910).

PARMENTER, Miss B. S. P., Didgemere Hall, Roydon, Essex. (Dec.,

PATERSON, Rev J. MAPLETOFT, Hopewell, Srinagar, Kashmir, India, (November, 1908).

PAUWELS, ROBERT, E., (September, 1909).

PELLEY, HENRY LE, L.C. & M. Bank, Guernsey. (Oct., 1916).

PENNANT, Lady EDITH DOUGLAS, Soham House, Newmarket. (July, 1908).

PERCIVAL, W. G. Nanga, Chania Bridge, British East Africa. (January 1915).

PERKINS, E., Chester Hill, Woodchester, Stroud, Gloucestershire. (Feb., 1903).

PERREAU, Major G. A., F.Z.S., 2-4 Gurkha Rifles, Bakloh, Punjab, India. (December, 1903).

PERREAU Mrs G. A., Bakloh, Punjab, India. (September, 1916).

PERREAU, Mrs. R. A. D. Address unknown. (September, 1908).

PERRING C. S. R., Claremont Avenue, New Malden, Surrey. (October 1902).

PHAIR, H. J., Broad Street, Alresford. (January, 1912).

PHILLIPS, E. R., 12, Waltham Terrace, Blackrock, Ireland. (September, 1915).

PICKARD H. K., 298, West End Lane, Kilburn, London, N.W. (Oct.; 1901).

PICKLES, W H., Stonyhurst, Morecambe, Lancs. (May, 1904).

PIKE, L. G., F.Z.S., King Barrow, Wareham. (December, 1910).

PILKINGTON, Lady KATHLEEN, Chevet Park, Wakefield. (September, 1908).

POLTIMORE, Lady, Poltimore Park, Exeter. (August, 1911).

POND, Mrs., T., 174, Upper Parliament Street, Liverpool. (November, 1902).

POPE, Mrs. Howden, Tiverton, Devon. (February, 1914).

POWELL, Miss M. M., Hawthorn House, Oakhill Park, Old Swan, Liverpool. (May, 1914).

PUCK, OTTO, Darenth Lodge, Chingford, N.E. (May, 1912).

PULLAR, LAWRENCE, H. F., F.Z.S., Dunbarnie Cottage, Bridge of Earn Perthshire. (October, 1913).

QUINCEY R. de QUINCEY, Inglewood, Chislehurst, Kent. (August, 1910).

RATHBORNE, H. B., Dreenan, Letter, Co. Fermanagh. (November, 1915)

RATTIGAN G. E., Lanarkslea, Cornwall Gardens, London, S.W. (March, 1909).

RAVEN W. H., 239, Derby Road, Nottingham. (October, 1909).

RAYNOR, Rev. G. H., M.A., Hazeleigh Rectory, Maldon, Essex. (Dec., 1909).

REEVE, Capt J. S., Dunheved, Caterham, Surrey. (March, 1908)

RESTALL, J. A., 82, Cambridge Street, Birmingham. (November, 1903).

RICE, Capt. G., Clayquhat, Blairgowrie. (July, 1902).

ROBBINS. H., 37, New Oxford Street, London, W. (October, 1908).

ROBSON, J., 28, Camden Grove, Peckham, S.E. (December, 1909).

ROGERS. W. T., 21, Priory Villas, New Road, Brentwood. (October, 1907).

ROGERSON, Mrs. Fleurville, Cheltenham, (February, 1903).

ROTH, FRED, G. R., Sherwood Place, Englewood, N.J., U.S.A. (Nov.; 1908).

ROTHWELL, JAMES, E., 153, Sewell Avenue, Brookline, Mass.; U.S.A. (February, 1911).

ROUTH, Col. J. J., 2, Beechworth Villas, Cheltenham. (January, 1912).

ROW, C. H., Chapel House, Long Melford, Suffolk. (December, 1905).

RUMSEY. LACY, 23, Rua de Terpa Pinto, Villa Nova de Gaya, Oporto, Portugal. (October, 1911).

RYAN, G. E., (Bar-at-law), Hintlesham Hall, Ipswich. (November, 1913).

SAMUELSON, LADY, Hatchford Park, Cobham, Surrey. (July, 1916).

SCHUYL, D. G., 12, Toe-Haringylist, Rotterdam, Holland. (January, 1914).

SCOTT, Lieut. B. HAMILTON, Hamildean, Ipswich. (July, 1910).

SCOTT, A H., Waterside Copse, Liphook, Hants. (October, 1915).

SCOTT, J. EASTON, M.B., Birdhurst, Woodcote Road, Wallington, Surrey. (March, 1908).

SCOTT Mrs. J. EASTON, Birdhurst, Woodcote Road, Wallington, Surrey. (March, 1908).

SCOTT-MILLER, R., Greenoak Hill, Broomhouse, Glasgow. (May, 1913).

SEBAG-MONTEFIORE, Mrs., East Cliffe Lodge, Ramsgate. (May, 1914).

SHERLOCK, Rev. W. J. R., Dormant. (Jan., 1916).

SHIFTON, A. J., 71, Cloudesdale Road, Balham, London, S.W. (April, 1913).

SICH, H. L., Corney House, Burlington Lane, Chiswick, London, W. (June, 1908).

SIDEBOTTOM, Mrs. E. HARROP, Etherow House, Hollingworth, Cheshire. (February, 1908).

SILLS ARTHUR, 260, Loughborough Road, Leicester. (January, 1911).

SIMPSON, R. E., 1, Highthorne Grove, Ridge Road, Armley Leeds. (December, 1907).

SLADE, G. J., 34, Milton Road, Fitzhugh, Southampton. (February, 1915).

SMITH-RYLAND, Mrs. Barford Hill, Warwick. (April, 1909).

SMITH., J., Woodlands, Kendal, (January, 1910).

SMYTH Miss ALFREDA, 27, Haverfield Gardens, Kew Gardens, Kew. (January, 1911).

SNAREY, H., 21, Leamington Road, Blackburn. (March, 1911).

SOAMES, Rev. H. A., M.A., F.L.S., Lyncroft, Bromley, Kent: (Rejoined January, 1914).

SOMERS, Lieut. F. W., A.V.C., T.F., 66, Francis Street, Leeds: (Jan.; 1907).

SOUTHCOMBE, S. L., Highlands, Ash, Martock, Somerset. (September, 1910)

SPEAKER Mrs. ALICE, Gifford Lodge, Twickenham. (April, 1915).

SPRANKLING, E., Brookland Cottage, South Road, Taunton. (February, 1908).

SPRAWSON. Capt. E. C., R.A.M.C., 68, Southwood Lane, Highgate, London N. (October, 1913).

SPROSTON Mrs., The Elm House, Nantwich. (January, 1911).

STEAVENSON, Mrs. PAGET, Cross Bank Hill, Hurwood-on-Tees, Darlington (January, 1915).

STEED, B., 22, North Street, Sudbury, Suffolk. (May, 1914).

STEINSCHEN, W. E., The Bungalow, Contanchey, Guernsey. (February, 1914).

STEPHENS, A. J., Argyle Road, Ilford. (February, 1914).

STEWART, B. T., Glenhurst, The Crosspaths, Radlett, Herts. (February, 1914).

STONEY, Mrs STELLA, 38, Campden House Court, Kensington, London, W. (August, 1912).

STOREY Mrs. A., Summer Hill, Tarporley, Cheshire. (November, 1912).

STOTT, A. E., 15, East Parade, Leeds. (January, 1915).

STREET, E., The Poplars, Oatwoods, Anslow, Burton-on-Trent. (May, 1909)

STRICKLAND, E. A., 16, Alma Road, Windsor. (May, 1912).

STRONG HERBERT, Redlands, Chislehurst Road, Bickley. (April, 1913).

SUGGITT, R., Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes, Grimsby. (Jan., 1915).

SUGGITT W. E., Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes, Grimsby. (Jan., 1915).

SUTCLIFFE, ALBERT, Fairholme, Welholme Road, Grimsby. (May, 1907).

SWAYNE HENRY, A., 29, Percy Place, Dublin. (January, 1913).

SWAYSLAND, W., Dormant. (Original Member).

SYKES J., 16, Shorthope Street, Musselburgh. (January, 1912).

TAINTEGINES, BARONNE LE CLEMENT DE, Cleveland, Minehead, Somerset. (August, 1913).

TAVISTOCK, The Marquis of, 19, Hanover Square, London, W. (January, 1913).

TEMPLE W. R., Ormonde, Datchet, Windsor. (December, 1908).

TESCHEMAKER, W. E., B.A., Ringmore, Teignmouth. (March, 1907).

THOMASSET, B. C., F.Z.S., The Manor House, Ashmansworth, Newbury. (July, 1912).

THOMPSON, M., 4, William Street, Roslyn, Dunedin, New Zealand. (June; 1911).

THORBURN, Miss C. W., 99, Edge Lane, Liverpool. (March, 1910).

THORNILEY, PERCY W., Shooter's Hill, Wem, Shrewsbury. (May, 1913).

THWAITES, Dr. GILBERT B., 94, Beaconsfield Road, Brighton. (May, 1910.

TIDEY. J. W., Dormant. (January, 1912).

TILLEY, G D. F., New York, Z.S., Darien, Connecticut, U.S.A. (January; 1913)

TOMASSI BALDELLI, LA COUNTESSA G., 4, Via Silvio, Pelico, Florence, Italy. (December, 1901).

TOMLINSON, MALCOLM R., Shepherd's House, Inveresk, Midlothian. (April 1913).

TOSSIZZA. BARON M., 15, Rue de Lubeck, Paris, France. (March, 1916).

TOWNSEND S. M., (*Hon. Exhibitional Secretary*), 3, Swift Street, Fulham, S.W. (Original Member).

TRACY Mrs. A. L., Halsham, Shaldon, Teignmouth. (February, 1914).

TRAVERS Mrs JOHNSON, Fern Hill, Clonakilty, co. Cork. (December, 1903)

TRAVIS, Mrs., Pedmore Grange, Stourbridge. (January, 1911).

TURNER HERBERT J., Tremadoc, Keyberry Road, Newton Abbot. (February 1915.)

TURNER-TURNER. Mrs., Abbey Spring, Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Hants. (November 1910).

TYSON, C. R., 169, Sloane Street, Chelsea, London, S.W. (February, 1911).

URWICK, D R., St. Cross Mill, Winchester. (March, 1913).

VALE. LEWIS, 8, Broadway, Woodford, London, N.E. (May 1913).

VALENTINE E., 7, Highfield, Workington, (December, 1911).

VERSTRANTEN, Mons., Augusta House, Belle Vue Road, Ramsgate. (April, 1916).

VOLLMAR P., 8, George Street, Minories, London, E.C. (February, 1909).

WADDELL, Miss E. G. R. PEDDIE, 4, Great Stuart Street, Edinburgh, (February, 1909).

WADE. L. M., Oakhill Road, Ashstead, Surrey. (September, 1913).

WAIT Miss L. M., St. A., 12, Rosary Gardens, South Kensington, London, S.W. (December, 1907)

WALKER, CARR, Tyrie, West Park, Headingley, Leeds. (March, 1916).

WARD. Hon. Mrs. SOMERSET, Greenmount, Newcastle, co. Down. (October, 1905)

WARDALE, H., Dormant. (May, 1903).

WATSON, S., 37, Tithebarn Street, Preston. (September, 1910).

WATTS, RUDOLPH, Sunnyside, St. Peter's Road, Huntingdon. (November, 1906)

WEBB, Miss KATHARINE, Emery Down, Millington Road, Cambridge. (July, 1909)

WEBSTER, Lady, Powdermill House, Battle, Sussex. (February, 1911).

WEDGE, E., Kingscote, Trinity Road, Wood Green, London, N. (February, 1915).
WEIR, J., Douglas Cottage, Upper Ashley, New Milton, Hants. (December, 1912)
WESTACOTT, H., Wellington Hotel, Minehead, Somerset. (September, 1907).
WETHEY Mrs. R. E., Lehden, Coatham, Redcar. (July, 1911).
WHISTLER HUGH I. P., c/o. Mrs. Whistler, Caldea House, Battle, Sussex. (January, 1913).
WHITE, A. I., Gleshire, Barroby Road, Grantham. (November, 1916).
WHITLEY, H., Primley Hill, Paignton, S. Devon. (January, 1916).
WILLFORD, HENRY, *(Hon. Photographer)*, Uplands View, Haven Street, Ryde (July, 1908).
WILLIAMS, SIDNEY, F.Z.S., *(Hon. Treasurer and Business Secretary)*, "Oakleigh," 110, Riverway, Palmer's Green, London, N. (October, 1910).
WILLIAMS, Mrs. C. H., Emanuel Vicarage, Exeter. (January, 1911).
WILLIAMS, Mrs. HOWARD, 24, Harley House, Regent's Park, London, N.W. (June, 1910).
WILSON, Miss F. M., 35, Emanuel Avenue, Acton, Middlesex. (March, 1906)
WILSON, T. N., M.A., Harrow Lodge, Bransgore, Christchurch. (Jan., 1902).
WINCHILSEA and NOTTINGHAM, The Countess of, Haverholme Priory, Sleaford. (June, 1903).
WINDYBANK, L. A., "Letchmere," 216, Richmond Road, Kingston-on-Thames. (June, 1916).
WIMBLE CHAS., Thirlmere, South End Road, Beckenham. (December, 1909.)
WOOD L. W., Dormant. (April, 1911).
WOODWARD, KENNETH, N., 1, Madison Avenue, New York, U.S.A. February 1915)
WORKMAN, W. H., M.B.O.U., Lismore, Windsor, Belfast. (June, 1912).
WRIGHT, G. B., c/o G. Heaton, Church Hill, Handsworth, Birmingham. (June. 1908).
WRIGHT, H., Newcombe, LL.B., Dormant. (January, 1911).
WROTTESLEY, The Hon. WALTER, B., F.Z.S., Seisdon, Staplecross, Hawkhurst, (December, 1902).
YEALLAND JAMES, Binstead, Ryde. (September, 1909).
YOUNG, Miss CONSTANCE, Thornhill, Alnwick. (October, 1911).
YULE, LADY, Hanstead House, Bricket Wood, Herts. (Jan., 1914).

The Hon. Secretary requests that he may be notified at once of any errors in the above roll.

The Hon. Business Secretary requests that he may be promptly informed of any errors in the above List

Notices to Members.

Subscriptions: Trying as the past year has been for the officials to keep things going and not lose ground, which had only been gained by great effort, the present year's work is sure to be even more difficult for them, and we ask that each member will give the slip accompanying this issue careful perusal and consideration.

The Magazine: Our past volume compares well with its predecessors (we thank many members for their expressed appreciation), and we feel assured the present volume will not be found wanting. At the same time, this can only be by *everyone* doing a little and each and all sending in accounts of the doings of their birds. Many members did not do this last year, and the Hon. Editor requests, that these will kindly send him copy and assist him in maintaining interesting issues, till the coming season is in full swing. We live in *acute times*, and it is only by all doing a little—pencil notes will suffice—that our object can be achieved.

Breeding Medals: The List for 1916 is now under the consideration of the Awards' Committee, and will be published next month, and the medals will be distributed as soon as they can be obtained from the medallist.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Bus Sec. and Treas.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds much need all the assistance members can give them. The Committee tender best thanks for the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
Browning, W. H.	1	0	0
Miller, R. Scott	0	10	0

Proposed for Election as Member.

Murray Dixon. *By Sec.-Lieut. A. Sutcliffe, R.F.A.*

New Members Elected,

O. Bartels "Orchidia," Mayne, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
Chas. Cleeberg, junr., 16 Lockerbie Road, Dumfries, N.B.
Miss B. S. P. Parmenter, Didgemere Hall, Roydon, Essex.

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' SALES EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE Pairs, Taha Weavers, 25s.; Napoleon Weavers, 15s.; St. Helena Waxbills, 15s.; and Red-headed Finches 15s. Cocks: Grenadier, 12s. 6d.; Taha 10s.; Half-masked 10s. 6d.; and 2 Sitagra Weavers (species?) 10s. each; Giant 63s.; Pintail 21s.: and Queen Whydahs, 63s.; 2 Singing Finches, young, 10s. the two; Scaly-fronted Finches 15s.; Quail, 15s.; and Red-headed Finches, 15s. pair, cocks 10s. each; St. Helena Waxbills, cock, 6s. 6d., hen 8s. 6d.—Mrs. W. A. Bainbridge Hazelwood, Thorpe, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Silver Pheasants, 2 cocks, and 1 hen, vigorous birds of the year, full grovn; or would exchange for other species, Gold alone excepted.—Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

FOR SALE :Fine Yellow Budgerigars, 10s. per pair; also an adult pair of prolific breeders, 15s.; and one hen Cockateel (breeder), 12s. 6d.—Mrs. Wethey, Lehden, Coatham, Redcar, Yorks.

FOR SALE: Four healthy young Black-headed Lovebirds, 12s. 6d. each; also one pair Grey Java Sparrows, 5s., overstocked.—Mrs. E. Cartwright, Bretton West, Wakefield.

FOR SALE: "Bird Notes" for 1916, unbound, clean as issued.—E. Paterson, Wellington, Salop.

FOR SALE: Acclimatized pairs of Bank Mynahs, 42s., and Malabar Starlings, 50s. per pair. Cock Zebra Finches, aviary bred, 6s. 6d. each. –W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

FOR SALE.—Pheasants : Golden, 1 cock, 2 hens, 40s., Swinhoe's, 1 cock, 2 hens, 100s., Amherst, 1 cock, 1 hen, 50s. Silvers 1 cock 1 hen, 20s. Parrakeets : 1 pair Redrumps, 80s., 1 pair Rosellas, (hen slight droop in wing), 70s., 1 pair Blossom-heads, 60s., 1 pair Black-cheeked Lovebirds, 50s., 1 hen Black-cheeked (a little rough in plumage, 20s., 1 Black-headed Conure cock, 30s. 1 pair Cockateels, 20s. 1 hen Cockateel, 10s. 1 cock Canarywing, 30s.—A. Williams, 3, Manor Road, St. Thomas, Exeter.

FOR SALE: Common Parrot Finches, 40s. each; pair Red-rump Parrakeets 65s.; pair Scaly-breasted Lorikeets, on canary seed, 60s.; WANTED: 2 pairs Black-cheeked Lovebirds and 2 pairs Yellow (not greenish yellow) Budgerigars.—R. Colton, 9 Birkendale Road, Sheffield.

WANTED. Hen Yellow-winged Sugarbird.—Apply c/o Editor, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

WANTED Cock White Sparrow, also thirty square yards $\frac{5}{8}$in. mesh wire netting.—A. H. Scott, Waterside Copse, Liphook, Hants.

BOOKS: All in library condition, clean as published. Dr. Butler's "Foreign Finches"; 60 coloured plates by Frohawk (2nd edition), published 35s., for 17s. 6d. "British Birds," 6 volumes, by Tegetmeir and 7 other special authors; 318 full paged plates of Birds and Nests, and 24 coloured plates of Eggs, by Frohawk; 1248 pages, published £5 5s., for £2 12s. 6d. Morris's "British Birds," 6 volumes, 400 full paged plates £6 6s., for £3 3s. "Fauna Hawaiiensis." The Zoology of the Sandwich Islands; 27 large coloured plates; 12 photogravures and 41 full paged plates in black and white; 3 volumes in 18 parts, quarto, paper covers *as originally issued*, published £20 5s., for £5 5s. Book of Birds by Duncan, volumes, bound in 2, Calf; £2 15s. Natural History: 6 volumes, bound in 3, £2 10s., published by Cassels. These volumes would form beautiful Gifts.—Address, Mr. John Dobbie, 12 Inverleith Gardens, Edinburgh.

FEBRUARY, 1917

The Foreign Bird Club.

(Continued from page 1).

Magazine Committee :

Dr. M. Amsler

W. Shore Baily

Lt. W. A. Bainbridge, A.S.C.

Capt. Phillip Gosse, M.D., M.B.O.U. R.A.M.C.

H. Gray, M.R.C.V.S.

Dr. N. S. Lucas

Lt. L. Lovell-Keays, M.B., R.A.M C., F.Z.S.

Dr. J. E. R. McDonagh

Rev. G. H. Raynor, M.A.

Dr. J. Easton Scott

Ser.-Maj. R. Suggitt

H. Willford

Show Committee :

Lt. W. A. Bainbridge, A.S.C.

Lady Kathleen Pilkington

The Hon. Mrs. G. Bourke

Stanley M. Townsend, (*Hon. Sec.)*

Social Committee :

Mrs. C. Anningson

Hon. Mrs. G. Bourke

Mrs. E. A. H. Hartley

W. R. Temple

W. Bamford

W. T. Rogers (*Hon. Sec.*

Sc.-Lt. A. Sutcliffe

Awards Committee :

Hon. W. B. Wrottesley, F.Z.S.

The Countess of Winchilsea

H. Bright

E. W. Chaplin

Dr. T. Hetley

Ser. Maj. R. Suggitt (*Hon. Sec.*)

Auditor,

G. E. Rattigan

Scrutineer :

C. F. Crow

Rules.

1 The objects of "The Foreign Bird Club." shall be the mutual encouragement and assistance of the members in keeping and breeding all species of Birds. and the exhibiting of Foreign Birds and the improvement of Shows in regard, to them.

2. The Club shall be composed of members. Every member shall pay an entrance fee of 2s. 6d., and an annual subscription of 10s. Subscriptions shall be due and payable in advance on the 1st of January in each year. If any member's subscription shall be more than three months overdue, he shall be suspended from all benefits of the Club, and if more than nine months overdue, notice of his having ceased to be a Member of the Club, and of the cause, may be published in Notices to Members; and on such notice being published he shall cease to be a member accordingly, *but his liability for overdue subscriptions shall continue.*

3. New Members shall be proposed in writing by a Member of the Club; and the name and address of every person thus proposed, with the name of the person proposing him, shall be published in the Notices to Members. Unless the Candidate shall, within fourteen days after the publication of his name, be objected to by at least two Members, he shall be duly elected. If two or more Members shall lodge with either of the Secretaries objections to any Candidate, he shall not be elected, but the signature to the signed objections must be verified by the Scrutineer. The Secretaries and the Scrutineer shall not disclose the names of the objectors.

4. Any member wishing to resign at the end of the current year of the Club shall give notice of his intention to one of the Secretaries before the 31st of December, and in default of such notice *he shall be liable to the following year's subscription.*

5. The Officers of the Club shall be elected from the Members, and shall consist of a President, one or more Vice-presidents, and Auditor, a Scrutineer, one or more Secretaries, a Treasurer, a Veterinary Surgeon, a Council of Twenty-four Members, and such number of Judges as shall from time to time be determined by the Council. The Editor, Secretaries, Treasurer, and Veterinary Surgeon shall be *ex-officio* members of the Council.

Three Members of the Council shall retire annually by seniority, but are eligible for re-election. The Editor, Secretaries, and Treasurer shall be elected trienially. The Council and Judges shall be elected in a manner hereinafter provided. The other officers shall be elected annually at a meeting of the Council, immediately after their own election.

6. The election for the three annual vacancies on the Council, and the Judges, shall take place every year between the 15th November and the 5th December. The Secretaries shall ascertain which of the Members are willing to stand for election to office, and shall send to each Member of the Club on or about the 15th of November a voting paper containing a list of all such members, showing the offices for which they are respectively seeking election. Each Member shall make a (X) opposite the names of those for whom he desires to vote, and shall sign the paper at the foot, and send it in a sealed envelope to the Scrutineer, so that he may receive it before 5th December. The Scrutineer shall prepare a return of the Officers elected, showing the number of votes recorded for each Candidate, and send it one of the Secretaries for publication in the Notices to Members for December. The Scrutineer shall not reveal to any person how any Member shall have voted. In the event of an equality of votes the president shall have a casting vote.

7. Dealers in birds shall not be eligible for election to any office in the Club, except that of Judge. For the purpose of this rule, any Member who habitually buys birds with the intention of selling them again, shall be deemed a bird dealer. Before the annual election of officers, the Secretaries shall submit to the Council the list of Members willing to stand for election to the Secretaryship, the Treasurership, and the Council; and the Council shall remove from the list the name of any Candidate who shall be, in the opinion of the Council, a dealer in birds, within the meaning of this rule. The decision of the Council or of any Committee to whom the Council shall delegate its power under this rule, shall be final. When a dealer is proposed as a Member of this Club, the fact of his being a dealer shall be stated in the Notices to Members.

8. It shall be lawful for the Council to delegate any of its powers to a committee.

9. The Council may appoint an Arbitration Committee, which may decide questions at issue between Members, when requested to do so by both parties. Any decision of such Committee shall be final. Except to the extent permitted by this rule, the Club and its officers shall decline to concern themselves with disputes between Members.

10 The Council shall have power to alter and add to these Rules, but shall give to the members notice of any proposed alteration or addition, and in the event of six members obj c ing thereto within fourteen days, the proposed alterations o r additions shall be submitted to the votes of the Members. Failing such objection the alteration shall date from its adoption by the Council.

12.—Neither the office of Scrutineer nor that of Auditor shall be held for two consecutive years by the same person. The Scrutineer shall not be a Candidate at any Election at which he acts as Scrutineer.

13.—If any office becomes vacant at any time other than the end of the current year of the Club, the Council shall have power to appoint any Member to fill the vacancy.

14. The decision of the majority of the Council shall be final and binding on the Club, but a resolution passed by the Council shall not be acted upon unless there be an absolute majority of the Council (and not merely of those voting) in its favour.

Rules Governing Club's Patronage at Shows.

1. The patronage of the F.B.C. is given at all OPEN SHOWS, provided the following conditions are observed.

(*a*) At least three classes must be provided for *FOREIGN BIRDS* (excluding local and members' classes, in which no bird competing for F. B.C. patronage may be shown).

(*b*) The classification and name of the judge, must be submitted by Show Secretaries, when applying for patronage.

(*c*) Those societies obtaining patronage, must print in the schedule that the section is under the patronage of the F.B.C.

(*d*) That no alteration (amalgamation or cancellation) of clsses must be made, or the judges changed without giving notice to the Hon. Show Secretary of the F.B.C., in which case the original patronage does not hold good.

2. All MEDALS are awarded to BEST BIRDS (but the Committee have The right to award extra medals for special purposes) and no silver medal is granted where less than six classes are provided.

3. Members of the F.B.C. *must* place F.B.C. after each entry on entry forms, and should request show secretaries to print these initials in their catalogues.

4. No Member can win more than two medals in a season, *i.e.*; one silver and one bronze, or more than one medal at the same show.

5. The London Silver Cup is offered for competition at all Shows under patronage in the London Postal District, where ten or more classes are given, and the Provincial Silver Cup at shows outside this area, for points gained throughout the season by nominated birds.

6. These Cups become the property of those who have won them three times (not necessarily in succession), and only three birds at each Show can be nominated, which is done by writing the word "Cup" after the entries on entry form. If members nominate more than three birds they will be disqualified for that show.

7. These conditions only hold good where Show Societies and Members observe the rules. Failure to conform annuls all offers, and the birds of a member whose subscription is unpaid at the time of making an entry are ineligible to compete.

8. Points for the Cup to count as follows: 1st, 7 points; 2nd, 6 points; and one point off for each lower award. Should a tie take place, the member taking the most prize money to win.

9. Any item not herein provided for, may be dealt with at the discretion of the Show Committee.

◆

Rules re Breeding Medals.

1 The F.B.C. Medal for Breeding a Species or Hybrid for the first time in captivity in Great Britain, will be awarded on the following conditions only:

(*a*) As detailed an account of the success as possible must be sent for publication in "Bird Notes," as soon as the young can fend for themselves.

(*b*) The Awards Committee, whose decision shall be final, to make the awards from the Secretary's data, and the published articles recording successes.

(*c*) The awards will be made, and the medals distributed at the close of each successive season, or as soon afterwards as the publication of said articles permit.

2. SPECIES: The young must be reared to be independent of their parents, the record is not eligible for the medal; except in the parents, the record is not eligible for the medal; except in the case of parasitic species.

3. HYBRIDS.: For any cross not previously reared in captivity, between any two species—the domestic Canary as one of the parents alone being excepted. A cross between any two species is only once recognised, e.g., Parson Finch × Long-tailed Grassfinch, and Long-tailed Grassfinch × Parson Finch are reckoned as the same Hybrid for the purposes of this award, and whichever was secured first would hold the record. The eggs must be incubated and the young reared by the pair of birds producing the eggs, or the record will not be eligible for a medal.

Notices to Members.

Breeding Medals: The Awards Committee have passed the following claims for medals:—

SPECIES:

Bramblefinch (*Fringilla montifringilla*).—Sergt.-Major R. Suggitt.

Jackson's Whydah (*Dreplanoplectes jacksoni*).—W. Shore Baily.

*Pied Bush Chat (*Pratincola caprata*).—Mrs. G A. Perreau.

*Tailor Birds (*Orthotomus sutorius*).—Mrs. G. A. Perreau.

*These two medals to bear the inscription: *Awarded to Mrs. G. A. Perreau, for breeding in Capitvity the Pied Bush Chat at Bakloh, India.*

HYBRIDS:

Cape × House Sparrow (*Passer arcuatus* × *domesticus*).—W. Shore Baily.

Crimson-crowned Weaver (*Pyromelana flammiceps* × *Penthetria ardens*).—W. Shore Baily.

Parson—Longtailed Grassfinch × Ruficauda Finch (*Poeplula cincta-acuticauda* × *Bathilda ruficauda*).—Fl.-Lt. R. S. de Q. Quincey.

St. Helena Seedeater × Yellow-rumped Serin (*Serinus flaviventris* × *angolensis*).—Miss E. F. Chawner.

The above medals have been put in hand and as soon as received received from the medallist will be duly despatched.

Mr W. R. Tomlinson appears to be entitled to a medal for breeding a reputed hybrid Rosefinch × Greenfinch, but the committee are withholding this for a time, as the exact parentage is not clearly established, though a new hybrid has undoubtedly been reared, and we hope Mr. Tomlinson may be able a little later, when the bird is fully adult, to definitely establish his claim thereto.

Secretary and Correspondence: The Hon. Secretary asks the forbearance of Members for any delay there may be in acknowledging letters, receipts, donations, etc.; or for the incompleteness of notices; lists; etc., in any one issue, owing to the claims of business (banking), and having to train with the Volunteers (even his Sundays are claimed); but there will be no *avoidable* delay and in due course all will be acknowledged and all donations, etc., duly published.

Co-operation: In societies such as ours nothing can be achieved without it—the coming year is sure to be the most difficult ever experienced in the history of the club, but by it we brought last year to a successful close, and this year will be one of progress and success, notwithstanding the unprecedented difficulties of the "times," if similar co-operation be maintained. The Hon. Editor apologises for the space he has occupied in this issue, and solicits articles upon any and every topic of aviculture—by co-operation we have won through in the past, and if this be forthcoming, as we are confident it will, then the result is already assured: but there *must* be prompt payment of subscriptions, and donations to Deficit and Illustration Funds, and also all must have a part in supplying copy for the Magazine.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Secretary and Treas.*

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These funds need the best help members can give them. The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations:

Baily W. Shore	0	10	0
Browning, W. H.	1	0	0
Bruce, Miss A.	0	10	0
Hewitt, T.	0	11	0
Kennedy, Captn. G.	0	10	0
Marmont, W. B.	0	10	0
Macready, T. M. (overpaid subscription)	0	0	6
Marsden, J.	0	10	0
Miller, H. Scott	0	10	0
Mundy, Miss S.	0	10	0
Page, W. T. (towards postage account)	2	0	0
Phillips, E. R.	0	10	0
Pike, L. G.	0	10	0
Pilkington, Lady Kathleen	0	10	0
Pullar, L.	0	10	0
Sich, H. L.	0	10	0
Strong, H.	0	10	0
Sutcliffe, Lt. A.	0	10	0
Wait, Miss St. A.	0	10	0
Walker, H. Carr	0	10	0
Windybank, L. A.	0	5	0

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Mrs. G. Christie, Kellas, by Elgin.
Mrs. A. L. Tracy, Halsham, Teignmouth, Devon.

Roll of Honour.

Sec.-Lt. J. Norwood Ryan, killed in action in Egypt, September, 1916.

New Members Elected.

Murray, Dixon,

Proposed for Election as Member.

The Hon. Norah Mégarel-Hogg, 53, Lancaster Gate, London; W.

By the Hon. Mrs. G. Bourke.

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' SALES EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE: Silver Pheasants; 2 cocks, and 1 hen, vigorous birds of the year. full grown; or would exchange for other species, Gold alone, excepted.—Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Fine Yellow Budgerigars, 10s. per pair; also an adult pair of prolific breeders, 15s.; and one hen Cockateel (breeder), 12s. 6d.—Mrs. Wethey, Lehden, Catham, Redcar; Yorks.

FOR SALE: Acclimatized pairs of Bank Mynahs, 42s., and Malabar Starlings. 50s. per pair. Cock Zebra Finches, aviary bred, 6s. 6d. each. W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

WANTED: Cock White Sparrow, also thirty square yards, ⅝in. mesh wire netting.—A. H. Scott, Waterside Copse, Liphook, Hants.

FOR SALE: 3 pairs Green Budgerigars (adults), in fine breeding condition, 10s. per pair; also two pairs of young ditto at 7s. 6d. per pair WANTED: A good pair of Yellow Budgerigars, must be proved breeders; also 2 hen Zebra Finches; would exchange for above.—Mrs. Mackness, 22, Cypress Road, Church End, Finchley; London, N.

FOR SALE: Pair Red Ground Doves, 40s.; pair Golden Pheasants, 1916, 17s 6d.; cock Californian Quail 5s.—R. Suggitt, Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes.

WANTED: Quantity of wire netting ½in. or ⅝in. mesh, in good condition; also a hen Yellow-winged Sugar-bird.—Apply W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

Notices to Members.

The Magazine: Any curtailment made as to plates or bulk, is made chiefly with the object of meeting the shortage of paper difficulty, as we feel it incumbent upon us to assist all we can in this direction. The Hon. Editor solicits copy upon any and every topic of aviculture, covering *all species* (both British and Foreign) of birds; also upon details of aviary management, methods of feeding, etc.

Subscriptions: All these became due on January 1st last, and it is pressed upon those who have not yet remitted same, that they remit the amount at once to the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer,. as it will greatly assist the officials at the present time, although this notice should not be necessary.

Hon. Secretary's Correspondence: Re any delay in acknowledging remittances, etc., members are referred to the notice in inset, page 22 (pink pages) of our last issue. There will be no avoidable delay.

Secretary's Address: To comply with the new London postal regulations, members are requested to use the following address: S. Williams, Oakleigh, 110 Riverway, Palmer's Green; London; N.13.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds need all the help members can give them! The committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
Miss M. Gerard	0	10	6

Proposed for Election as Member.

Miss Paget, 39 Berkley Square, London, W. *By Mrs M. Lee.*
Mrs A Avery, 63 Windsor Road, Forest Gate, S.E. *By Mrs. Chatterton.*

New Members Elected.

The Hon Norah Hogg, 53, Lancaster Gate, London; W.2.

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' SALES EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE Mrs. Miller has for sale Blossom-head, Parrakeet for good home in aviary only. Can be seen by appointment.—4 Cardinal Mansions, Carlisle Place, London, S.W.

FOR SALE. Acclimatized pairs of Blossom-headed, 40s., Ring-necked, 35s.; and Rosella Parrakeets, 50s. per pair; also two Peach-faced Love-birds 35s. each, believed to be hens; all in out-door aviary.—E. R. Phillips, 4 Waltham Terrace, Blackrock, co. Dublin; Ireland.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE: Hen Bullfinch, large bird, H.M. and winner, cock Yellow-hammer, winner of Firsts, sell 10s. WANTED: Yellow, and Green Budgerigar hens, must be show birds.—Shipton, 71 Cloudesdale Road, Balham, London, S.W.

FOR SALE: Acclimatized pairs of Bank Mynahs, 42s., and Malabar Starlings, 50s. per pair. Also the following odd birds, hen Green Fruit-Pigeon, cock Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, cock Black Tanager, hen Crimson-ringed Whydah, cock Silky Cowbird.—Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Acclimatized pair of Orange-flanked Parrakeets, absolutely finger tame and perfect in every way, £5.—Apply, Capt. J. S. Reeve, Dunheved, Caterham, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Pair Red Ground Doves, 40s.; cock Californian Quail, 5s.—R. Suggitt, 6 Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes.

WANTED: Quantity of wire netting ½in. or ⅝in. mesh, in good condition; also a hen Yellow-winged Sugar-bird.—Apply W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

WANTED: Hen Bib Finch.—Miss C. Bowring, Ascot Heath Lodge, Ascot, Berks.

WANTED: Cock White Sparrow; pair of Desert Trumpeter Bull-finches; pair of Diamond Doves; cock Yellow Sparrow, and about 50 square yards of ⅝ in. mesh wire netting.—A. H. Scott, Waterside Copse, Liphook, Hants.

FOR SALE: Cock Purple Sugarbird and cage, £3 10s.; cock Zebra Finch, 7s. 6d.; cock Scaly-headed Finch. WANTED: Parrakeets.—Miss Clare, 194 Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, London, S.W.19.

FOR SALE: Yokohama (Japanese Long-tailed) fowl eggs. This strain took two-thirds of the prizes last year, 21s. per dozen. Sebastopol (Frizzled) Goose eggs, 2s. each; and when ready Californian Quail eggs 5s. dozen. Rhea (South Am. Ostrich) eggs, 5s. each, easily hatched under Turkeys; money refunded for infertiles returned.—Scott-Miller, Greenoakhill, Broomhouse, Glasgow.

FOR SALE. Cocks, Bronze Abyssinian, 30s., and Rufous-necked Weavers 10s.; should like to exchange for pair of Tovi, Blossom-headed or similar small Parrakeets.—S. Williams, Oakleigh, 110 Riverway, Palmer's Green, London, N.13.

WANTED. Cocks Masked and Diamond Doves; also to exchange a hen Pintail Nonpareil for a cock.—H. Bright, Lynton, Eaton Road, Cressington Park, Liverpool.

WANTED: Pairs, various: also hens of Gouldian and Fire Finches: White Java Sparrow, and Zebra Dove. Cocks, Golden-breasted Waxbill and Grey Java Sparrow.—Scott-Miller, Greenoakhill, Broomhouse, Glasgow.

FOR SALE: 1 pair and one odd hen Stanley Parrakeets, reasonable price. WANTED: Hens Fire and Zebra Finches. Will Exchange hen Turtle Dove for cock.—Smith, Woodlands, Kendal.

April, 1917.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

THE MAGAZINE: Aviary records and descriptions, articles on all species of birds kept by our members are much needed, if our contents are to be kept as varied as your Editor would wish. Our lady members are earnestly urged to do their utmost in this respect, while the manhood of our roll is manning the various fighting lines of this awful war. The Editor greatly regrets that so much from his pen has filled the space of recent issues; and considers that it will not tend to the permanent welfare of our Journal if such has to continue—the general experience and effort of our members are necessary to maintain this—also it is quite possible to impose a great burden than even the "willing horse" can carry.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS: The necessity for keeping this matter even *ad nauseum*, is amply demonstrated by the increase in price of all newspapers, magazines and periodicals, owing to the increased cost of paper, printing, etc., and further reason for its urgency need not be be given—so we pressingly urge all who have not paid their subscription to remit same as early as they possibly can, and in like manner press the need of every member sending some donation as a help towards the extra cost of production which these war times entail. We must again point out that the claims of business and National Service keep our Hon. Secretary occupied practically night and day, in consequence of which the notices and list of donations, etc. in this issue are very incomplete, but this will be rectified as early as possible.

NEW MEMBERS: In consequence of these "pressing times" will all new members please accept the receipt of their copies of "Bird Notes" as notification of election, and promptly remit their subscriptions and entrance fee (12s. 6d for the first year), to the Hon. Treasurer, whose full address will be found in the "Memoranda to Members" on page iii of cover of each issue.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*

New Members Elected.

Miss Paget, 10 Berkley Square, London, W.1.
Mrs. A. Avery, 63, Windsor Road, Forest Gate; London; S.E 7
D. Murray-Dixon, c.o. Mrs. J Murray-Dixon, Swithsand Rectory, Loughborough, Leicestershire.

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds need all the help members can give them! The committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
Ezra, A.	5	0	0
Tavistock, The Marquis of	10	0	0

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' SALES EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

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WANTED: Hen Bib Finch.—Miss C. Bowring, Ascot Heath Lodge, Ascot, Berks.

FOR SALE: Pairs of King Parrakeets £14; Brown's Parrakeets £10; a Red-collared Lorikeet £4; hen Chinese Painted Quail 25s. All acclimatised and in show condition.—Hebb, "Brooklea," The Downs, Luton, Beds.

WANTED. Cock Sparrow, albino or variegated; cock Desert Trumpeter; Bullfinch; pair Zebra Finches; pair Diamond Doves. Also about 40 square yards of ⅝in. mesh wire netting.—A. H. Scott, Waterside, Copse, Liphook, Hants.

WANTED: Cock Bearded Tit.—W. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts

WANTED: Cock Gouldian Finch or pair.—Hebb, "Brooklea," The Downs, Luton, Beds.

WANTED. Cock Many-colour Parrakeet, will exchange hen Stanley. Also want hens Zebra and Fire Finches.—Smith, Woodlands, Kendal.

WANTED. Cock Cockateel, over two years old preferred.—Mrs. Chatterton, 11 Fairfield Road, Hornsey, London, N.S.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

Owing to their importance, from the exigencies of the "times" we repeat the Notices given in our last issue, pressing them upon the careful consideration of each member.

The Magazine: Aviary records and descriptions, articles on all species of birds kept by our members are much needed, if our contents are to be kept as varied as your Editor would wish. Our lady members are earnestly urged to do their utmost in this respect, while the manhood of our roll is manning the various fighting lines of this awful war. The Editor greatly regrets that so much from his pen has filled the space of recent issues, and considers that it will not tend to the permanent welfare of our Journal if such has to continue—the general experience and effort of our members are necessary to maintain this also, it is quite possible to impose a greater burden than even the "willing horse" can carry.

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WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Dr. E. Hopkinson, to 45 Sussex Square, Brighton.

Miss A. B. Smyth, to Priory House, Priory Road, Kew Gardens, Kew.

A. J. Stephens, to 22 Coventry Road, Ilford.

Proposed for Election as Member.

Rev. H. W. Young, Stone Vicarage, Aylesbury, Bucks. *By Mrs. M. Lee*

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds need all the help members can give them! The committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations:

Bright, H. E.	2	2	0	Rothwell, W. H.	1	0	0
Garcke, Miss (o.p. sub	0	0	6	Scott, Dr. J. E.	0	10	0
Hebb, T.	0	10	0	Suggitt, Sergt.-Maj. R. ..	0	5	0
Hopkinson, Dr. E.	0	11	0	Suggitt, W. E.	0	5	0
Jones, W. Yarworth .	0	0	6	Verstraten, F. (op. sub.	0	2	6
Paterson, Rev. J. M.	5	10	0				

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' SALES EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE: Mrs. Miller has for sale Blossom-head Parrakeet for good home in aviary only. c/o Editor, "Bird Notes," Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised pairs of Bank Mynahs, 42s., and Malabar Starlings, 50s. per pair. Also the following odd birds: Cock Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, cock Black Tanager, cock Silky Cowbird. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Pair Red Ground Doves, 40s.; cock Californian Quail, 5s.—R. Suggitt, 6 Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes.

WANTED: Hen Bib Finch.—Miss C. Bowring, Ascot Heath Lodge, Ascot, Berks.

WANTED: Cock Desert Trumpeter.—A. H. Scott, Waterside Copse, Liphook, Hants.

WANTED: Cock Bearded Tit.—W. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts

WANTED. Cock Many-colour Parrakeet, will exchange hen Stanley. Also want hens Zebra and Fire Finches.—Smith, Woodlands, Kendal.

WANTED. Cock Turtle Doves either to purchase cheap or in exchange for hen.—J. Smith, Woodlands, Kendal.

FOR SALE: Pairs of Speckled, and Black-headed Conures in very fine condition, £4 per pair.—W. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE: Bronze Abyssinian Weaver, 25s.; Greater Yellow Weaver, 3 cock Grenadier Weavers (going into moult), price on application.—S. Williams, 110 Riverway, Palmer's Green, London, N.-13.

WANTED: Hen Zebra Finch, for cash or in exchange for two Bronze-wing Mannikins.—Turner, Tremadoc, Newton Abbot.

FOR SALE: For benefit of Illustration Fund—Miss Alderson's "My Foreign Doves and Pigeons" 5s., and "Our Search for a Wilderness," by Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Beebe, 10s.—Apply, Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

WANTED: Situation as Aviary Attendant, references to G. E. Rattigan, Esq., and Mrs. Lesmoir, fully experienced in the care of birds. At present in hospital, having lost left hand at the front, but when fitted with artificial hand will be fully competent to discharge all duties as above; age 24.—Apply, H. Moore, c/o Editor "Bird Notes."

WANTED Cock Quail Finch, or would sell hen (breeder).—H. Bright, Lynton, Eaton Road, Cressington Park, Liverpool.

WANTED: to exchange acclimatised cock B.H. Gouldian for hen, also cock Zebra Finches for hens to value.—S. c/o Page. Langstone, Lingfield. Surrey.

WANTED: Cock White Sparrow *(Passer domestica)* or would sell hen White Sparrow 50/-, and hen Cinnamon Sparrow 35/-—Scott, Waterside Copse, Liphook, Hants.

June, 1917.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

The Magazine: The members *on active service* have been doing more than their share of late; cannot those who are not eligible for the army or on home service do more? Copy is much wanted.

Subscriptions, Etc.: Will members kindly re-read the notices in April and May issues, as these will have an important bearing upon the welfare of the club during the course of the year.

New Members: In consequence of the claims of "the times" upon the officers of the club, new members are asked to accept receipt of their magazines as notification of election, and to remit their subscriptions and entrance fee (12/6 in all) to the Honorary Treasurer, upon receiving same.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Post Mortem Reports:—None to hand at time of going to Press. *The Hon. Editor hopes to be able to make an announcement concerning these in our next issue.*

The Club's Medals.—The following successful records have been acknowledged and the medals despatched. We congratulate these members upon their successes.

Species:—

Bramblefinch (*Fringilla montifringilla*).—R. Suggitt.
Jackson's Whydah (*Drepanoplectes jacksoni*)—W. Shore Baily.
*Pied Bush-chat (*Pratincola caprata*).—Mrs. G. A. Perreau.
*Tailor Bird (*Orthotomus sutorius*).—Mrs. G. Perreau.
†Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua galerita*).

Hybrids:—

Parson-Longtailed × Ruficauda Grassfinch.—R. S. de Q. Quincey.
Cape × House Sparrow (*Passer arcuatus* × *P. domesticus*).—W. Shore Baily.
Crimson-crowned Weaver (*Pyrimelana flammiceps*) × Red-collared. Whydah (*Penthetria ardens*).—*W. Shore Baily.*
St. Helena Seedeater × Yellow-rumped Serin (*Serinus flaviventris* × *S. angolensis*).—Miss E. F. Chawner.
Scarlet Rosefinch × Greenfinch (*Carpodacus erithrinus* × *Ligurinus chloris*).—M. R. Tomlinson.

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*These two medals bear the inscription "for breeding in captivity at Baklöh, India."

†This medal bears the inscription "for breeding *C. galerita* in a state of controlled liberty."

*†Any member breeding either of these species for the first time in cage or aviary in this country will be entitled to medals as per rules. The above three medals are special awards to mark notable successes.

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two are in great need of all the help members can give them. The committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
Browning, W. H.	10	0	0
Harbord, Miss M. L.	2	2	0
Perreau, Mrs. G. A.	1	0	0
Quincey, R. de Q.	10	0	0
Sidebottom, Mrs. E. Harrop		10	0

New Members Elected.

Rev. H. W. Young, Stone Vicarage, Aylesbury, Bucks.

The New York Zoological Society, 185th, Street and Southern Boulevard, New York, U. S. A.

Proposed for Election as Member.

Miss E. Armsby, The Cottage, Silver Field, Harrogate. *By J. W. Marsden.*

Norman H. Wallace, Ard Brugh, Dalkey, Co. Dublin. *By the Hon. Editor.*

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' SALES EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

FOR SALE: Young Green Budgerigars, blue bred, sex not guaranteed, 20s. each. They are strong healthy birds and if paired together next year should breed some Blues.—J. W. Marsden, Thornhurst, Tewit Park, Harrogate.

FOR SALE: Male Rosella, sex guaranteed, Australian born, in perfect plumage, from unheated aviary.—W. H. Workman, Lismore, Windsor Avenue, Belfast, Ireland.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised pair of Bank Mynahs 42s.; cocks: Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Black Tanager and Silky Cowbird.—Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

FOR SALE for benefit of Illustration Fund. "My Foreign Doves and Pigeons" (Miss R. Alderson) and "Our Search for a Wilderness" (Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Beebe), offers to Hon. Editor, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

WANTED: Cock Quail Finch or would sell Hen, breeder; also to exchange Hen B.H. Gouldian Finch for Red-headed cock. FOR SALE: Breeding pair of Malabar Mynahs.—H. Bright, Lynton, Eaton Road, Cressington Park, Liverpool.

WANTED: Hen Zebra Finches, would give cocks in exchange to value.—S. c/o Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

WANTED: Cock Desert Trumpeter Bullfinch; cock White Sparrow *(Passer domestica)* or would sell hen White Sparrow, 35s.—Scott, Waterside Copse, Liphooks, Hants.

WANTED: Situation as Aviary Attendant, references to G. E. Rattigan, Esq. and Mrs. Lesmoir, fully experienced in the care of birds. At present in hospital, having lost left hand at the front, but when fitted with artificial hand will be fully competent to discharge all duties as above; age 24.—Apply, H. Moore, c/o Editor "Bird Notes."

JULY, 1917.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

THE MAGAZINE: The Hon. Editor requests from members, nesting anecdotes or interesting episodes which occur in their aviaries—may he be permitted to decide what is merely trivial? Usually what really interests ourselves will interest other bird-lovers.

Owing to their importance upon the welfare of the Club members are asked to re-read the Notices which have appeared in the last three issues.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

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Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds are in great need of all the help members can give them. The committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
Harbord, Miss M. L. (sale of gold watch)	4	0	0

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Changes and Corrections of Address.

Perreau, Mrs. R. A. D. to Treffgarne Hall, Treffgarne, Pembrokeshire.

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New Members Elected,

Miss E. Ormsby, The Cottage, Silver Field, Harrogate.
Norman H. Wallace, Ard Brugh, Dalkey, Co. Dublin.

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

FOR SALE: Young Green Budgerigars, blue bred, sex not guaranteed, 20s. each. They are strong healthy birds and if paired together next year should breed some Blues.—J. W. Marsden, Thornhurst, Tewit Park, Harrogate.

FOR SALE: Male Rosella, sex guaranteed, Australian born, in perfect plumage, from unheated aviary.—W. H. Workman, Lismore, Windsor Avenue, Belfast, Ireland.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised pair of Bank Mynahs 42s.; cocks: Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Black Tanager and Silky Cowbird.—Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

FOR SALE for benefit of Illustration Fund. "My Foreign Doves and Pigeons" (Miss R. Alderson) and "Our Search for a Wilderness" (Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Beebe), offers to Hon. Editor, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

WANTED: Cock Quail Finch or would sell Hen, breeder; also to exchange Hen B.H. Gouldian Finch for Red-headed cock. FOR SALE: Breeding pair of Malabar Mynahs.—H. Bright, Lynton, Eaton Road, Cressington Park, Liverpool.

WANTED: Hen Zebra Finches, would give cocks in exchange to value.—S. c/o Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

WANTED: Cock Desert Trumpeter Bullfinch; cock White Sparrow *(Passer domestica)* or would sell hen White Sparrow, 35s.—Scott, Waterside Copse, Liphooks, Hants.

WANTED: Situation as Aviary Attendant, references to G. E. Rattigan, Esq. and Mrs. Lesmoir, fully experienced in the care of birds. At present in hospital, having lost left hand at the front, but when fitted with artificial hand will be fully competent to discharge all duties as above; age 24.—Apply, H. Moore, c/o Editor "Bird Notes."

WANTED: Adult Hen Rosella or Mealy Rosella, from out-door aviary.—Carr, Deramore Drive, Belfast.

FOR SALE: Black-headed Nun and St. Helena Waxbill. WANTED: Hen Ribbon, or Red-headed Finch, and a cock Goldfinch; would exchange if preferred.—Mrs. Chatterton, 11 Fairfield Road, Hornsey, N.-8.

WANTED: Hen Leadbeater's Cockatoo. FOR SALE: Cock, Indian Purple Sunbird, in perfect condition and song, 3 guineas.—Miss Clare, 194 Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, S.W.-19.

FOR SALE: Young green-blue bred Budgerigars, 20/- each or Exchange small Parrakeets, Lovebirds or Macaw.—John W. Marsden, Thornhurst, Tewit Park Harrogate.

AUGUST, 1917.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

Important: We again draw our members' attention to the fact that all papers and periodicals have largely increased their selling price to the public, owing to increased costs of production in these war times. *Birds Notes* is affected in a similar manner, and as the war is not permanent we do not desire to increase subscription rates—even with reduced bulk and no coloured plates the cost of production is very largely in excess of normal times—it would be a far better plan if *each* member would send a donation to meet this special cost. We press this matter upon the attention of all who take any real interest in the welfare of the club.

Unpaid Subscriptions: There are still a number of these outstanding, even after allowing for those on active service (many of whom have promptly remitted theirs), and we ask all to remit same at once to the treasurer, reminding them that ours is a society which spends all its income (*not a single official receives payment of any kind whatever*) on its Journal, Medals and furthering the cause of aviculture. This leaves us with heavy liabilities to meet regularly, and members' subscriptions are our only certain income, and when these are left outstanding, it not only increases the burden of work of our Honorary officials but makes it unpleasant also.

New Members are asked to accept receipt of *Bird Notes* as notification of election and to kindly remit their subscription (10/-) and entrance fee (2/6) for the current year to the Hon. Treas. at once.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

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Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds are in great need of all the help members can give them. The committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
A Member (Postage account)	4	4	0

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Proposed for Election as Members

Francis Cadogan; Lt-Com., F.Z.S., F.R.G.S., H.M.S. "Marshal Ney," c/o G.P.O., London, E.C., 1., and at Hallicrop Castle, Fairford, Glos. *By the Hon. Editor.*

A. J. Pollack; Loretto House, Heaton, Bradford. *By J. W. Marsden.*

T .F. Wilkinson; 1105 Meridan Avenue, South Pasadena, California, U.S.A. *By the Hon. Editor.*

A. Horne; "Bonn-na-Coille," Murtle, Aberdeen. *By Rev. C. H. Raynor and W. T. Page.*

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Dr. J. E. Scott; to, Bifrons, Albany Road, Fleet, Hants.
Mrs. J. E. Scott; to, Bifrons, Albany Road, Fleet, Hants.
Mrs. Cartwright, to, Hawthorns, Tickhill, Rotherham.
Wm. Ebrill, to, Greenville, South Circular Road, Limerick, Ireland.
E. G. Herbert, to, 60 Squadron, R.F.C., B.E.F., France.
C. R. Tyson, to, 106 Grove Vale, East Dulwich, S.E.

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' RATES: Four words a penny; minimum fourpence. Non-members and displayed rates on application.

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

FOR SALE: Acclimatised and perfect Red-naped Lorikeet (cock), 80s—Mrs. Burgess, 52 Clarendon Road, Redland, Bristol.

FOR SALE: Aviary-bred Zebra Finches at 25s. per pair—P. J. Calvocoressi, "Holme Hey," Sefton Park, Liverpool.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised hen Rosella Parrakeet—Miss Haggie, Brumcombe, Foxcombe Hill, Oxford.

FOR SALE: Breeding pair of Red-rumped Parrakeets, £5 5s. Also two half-bred Budgerigars—Miss Clare, 194 Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, S.W., 19.

FOR SALE: Cross-bred Blue × Green Budgerigars, should throw a few Blues each season, or would exchange to value for Military Macaw—J. W. Marsden, Thornhurst, Tewit Park, Harrogate.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised pair of Bank Mynahs 42s.; cocks: Scaly-breasted Lorikeet, Black Tanager and Silky Cowbird.—Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

FOR SALE for benefit of Illustration Fund. "My Foreign Doves and Pigeons" (Miss R. Alderson) and "Our Search for a Wilderness" (Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Beebe), offers to Hon. Editor, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

WANTED: 2 hen Longtailed Grassfinches, 2 cock Gouldian Finches, hen Parrot Finch, and tame cock Common Partridge. EXCHANGE hen Zebra Finch for another, from outdoor aviary, for change of blood—W. R. Temple, Ormonde, Datchet, Bucks.

WANTED: Long-tailed Glossy Starling—J. Andrews, Gordon House, Cumberland Street, Woodbridge, Kent.

WANTED: Common Green Budgerigar (cock)—Miss Clare, 194 Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, S. W., 19.

WANTED: Military Macaw—J. W. Marsden, Thornhurst, Tewit Park, Harrogate.

FOR SALE: Hen Avadavat and hen Gold-breasted Waxbill, also hen Grey Java Sparrow, would exchange latter for cock, or sell two cocks in fine condition, also exchange hen Bengalese for hen Silverbill. For sale, hen Black Headed Nun. All outdoor Aviary. A. Chatterton, 11 Fairfield Road, Hornsey, N. 8

SEPTEMBER, 1917.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

IMPORTANT: Members are requested to carefully peruse the NOTICES in our last issue, as these have an important bearing on the present and future progress of the club.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

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Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds are in great need of all the help members can give them. The committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
Bainbridge, Lieut. W. A.	0	10	0
Crow, C. F.	1	1	0
Tavistock, The Marquis of	10	0	0

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New Members Elected.

Francis Cadogan; Lt-Com., F.Z.S., F.R.G.S., H.M.S. "Marshal Ney," c/o G.P.O., London, E.C., 1., and at Hallicrop Castle, Fairford, Glos.

A. J. Pollack; Loretto House, Heaton, Bradford.

T. F. Wilkinson; 1105 Meridan Avenue, South Pasadena, California, U.S.A.

A. Horne; "Bonn-na-Coille," Murtle, Aberdeen.

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The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' RATES: Four words a penny; minimum fourpence. Non-members and displayed rates on application.

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

FOR SALE: Acclimatised hen Rosella Parakeet—Miss Haggie Brumcombe, Foxcombe Hill, Oxford.

FOR SALE: 5 Java Sparrows (3 White, 1 Grey, 1 Pied): 3 Cut-throats (1 cock and 2 hens),—A. J. Stephens, 22 Coventry Road, Ilford, S.E.

WANTED: Lemon-crested Cockatoo, tame, sociable; a young bird preferred.—Mrs. Harrop-Sidebottom, The Neuk, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire.

FOR SALE: Crossbred Blue × Green Budgerigars, should throw a few Blues each season, or would exchange to value for Military Macaw.—J. W. Marsden, Thornhurst, Tewit Park, Harrogate.

FOR SALE for benefit of Illustration Fund. "My Foreign Doves and Pigeons" (Miss R. Alderson) and "Our Search for a Wilderness" (Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Beebe), offers to Hon. Editor, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Budgerigars, Blue-bred 20s. each, Common Greens 12s. 6d. pair, Yellows, 14s. 6d. pair. Also acclimatised pairs of Tui Parrakeets and Black-faced Lovebirds, Canaries, etc.—Mrs. J. H. Burgess, 52, Clarendon Road, Redland, Bristol.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised pairs of Black-headed Conures £3; Red-Speckled Conures, £4; Petz's Conures, £4; Moustache Parrakeets, 40s.; Green Fruit-Pigeons, 50s.; Green Fruit-suckers, £5; Jackson's Whydahs, £5. Also 4 young Red-crested Pochards, £3 lot; 5 young hybrid Chili × English Widgeon, £4 lot. All acclimatised and in fine condition.— W. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised, from outdoor aviary, Hybrid Bib Finch × Bengalese, 5s. pair; also the parents of above. Pair Ruficauda Finches, several Nuns, etc.—Mrs. Storey, Summer Hill, Tarporley, Cheshire.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised pair of Red-spotted Conures, also perfect cock Adelaide Parrakeet; all from outdoor aviaries, good home essential.—Miss M. Drummond, Mains of Megginch, Errol, Perthshire.

FOR SALE: 3 fine young Pennant's Parrakeets 40s. each; pair Red Rosellas 70s.; cock Crimson-wing, £6; cock Barraband's, £6; cock Cape Dove, 12s. 6d.; 2 cock Zebra Finches, 7s. 6d. each.—T. Hebb, Brooklea, Downs, Luton, Beds.

FOR SALE: 5 vols. of "Bird Notes," 35s. lot; "Cage Bird Hybrids," by Houlton, 5s.; "Foreign Birds for Cage or Aviary," part 1, by Butler, 5s.; Wright's Book of Poultry, 7s. 6d.; all as new.—J. Goodchild, Clare, Suffolk.

FOR SALE: Specially prepared and finely ground silkworm pupæ meal; for birds or poultry.—W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised Hooded Parrakeet, £10 or near offer; young cock Hooded Parrakeet, £6 10s.; pair of breeding Red-rump Parrakeets, £5; Champion bred Italian Greyhounds, 5 months old, 2 bitches, £3 10s. each, dog, £4 10s.—Miss Clare, 194, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, S.W., 19.

OCTOBER, 1917.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Correspondence.

IS THE PIN-TAILED WHYDAH PARASITIC?

SIR.—To Dr. Hopkinson's implied query *vide* pages 212-4 of this issue, I can only offer indefinite evidence. I saw the young Whydah referred to while staying with Mrs. Anningson shortly after it had made its exit from the nest. Mrs. Anningson was unable to say definitely which nest it had emerged from, but pointed out a nest, the domicile of a pair of Ribbon Finches, as the one, judging from the behaviour of the young bird, it had come from, and as the result of two days observations of its movements, I concurred in her opinion. Both the Pintails watched over it and occasionally fed it, as also did the Ribbon Finches. This evidence is, I admit, very inconclusive, but it certainly points to the fact of the Pintail as being a parasitic species. It also introduces another interesting feature, that in captivity (in this individual case at any rate), if not in its native wilds, its legitimate parents took an interest in their offspring and actually fed it irregularly—at the time I cross-questioned Mrs. Anningson closely concerning the rearing of this bird, but she could supply scarcely any details, as the youngster was a brancher before she was cognisant of its existence.

It would be of great interest if our members generally would keep this species amid a mixed collection in a roomy garden aviary, till they succeed in breeding it, and thus supply the lacking data.

There appears to be no room for doubt that the species is parasitic.

Lingfield, October 9th, 1917. W. T. PAGE.

Notices to Members.

AVIARY EPISODES AND NESTING NOTES: Very few accounts of these have been sent in this year, which is a matter of regret. It would add greatly to the interest of the Club Journal if there were many more of these, especially if weather and nature of soil were noted, more particularly with unsuccessful attempts of species to reproduce their kind.

NEW MEMBERS: As we are rapidly nearing the end of another club year, the present is a good time to make an effort to increase our roll—by the time the war ends there will be many gaps to fill—it is only by the united efforts of all our members that any continuous increase can be obtained, and we pressingly urge each member to make the Club and its Objects known to all birds keepers and lovers, whether of British or Foreign species.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds are in great need of all the help members can give them. The committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations:

	£	s.	d.
Henderson, Mrs.	0	11	0
Thorburn, Miss (op. sub.)	0	2	0
Urwick, D.	1	0	0
Wimble, Chas.	1	10	0

The Bird Market.

Members' Rates: Four words a penny; minimum fourpence. Non-members and displayed rates on application.

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

FOR SALE: Bird Notes, Vols. 2 to 8 (1st series), 4 parts missing; also vols. 1 to 7 (second series) complete, what offers.—E. W. Chaplin, Great Amwell, Herts.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised pair of Speckled (Euop's) Conures, also Port Adelaide Parrakeet. In perfect condition and thoroughly acclimatised. Offers to—Miss M. Drummond, Mains of Megginch, Errol, Perthshire.

FOR SALE: Cock Rosella, and hen Blue-winged Lovebird. Offers to—R. Baines, 6 Toronto Street, Lincoln.

FOR SALE: 9 young Green Budgerigars at 5s. each; and two young Cockateels 10s. 6d. each. All July hatched, from a heated outdoor aviary, quite hardy.—Mrs. Sebag Montefiore, East Cliff Lodge, Ramsgate.

FOR SALE: Crossbred Blue × Green Budgerigars, should throw a few Blues each season.—J. W. Marsden, Thornhurst, Tewit Park, Harrogate.

FOR SALE: Specially prepared and finely ground pupœ meal; for birds or poultry.—W. T. Page, Langstone, Lingfield, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Diamond Dove (cock) 25s.; Paradise Whydah (cock), 12s. 6d.; Orange Weaver (cock, in full colour), 12s. 6d.; Zebra Finch (cock), 7s. 6d.; very fine Crimson-wing Parrakeet (cock), £5 10s., or would exchange for hen.—Hebb, Brooklea, The Downs, Luton, Beds.

FOR SALE: Very nice small Capuchin Monkey (male), dark brown, good coat, healthy and clean, £5.—Hebb, Brooklea, The Downs, Luton, Beds.

FOR SALE: Young Cockateels 10s. 6d. each; also young Budgerigars, 5s. 6d. each, all bred in outdoor aviary.—Mrs. Chatterton, 11 Fairfield Road, Crouch End, London, N., 8.

NOVEMBER, 1917.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

Election of Council: The following members of the Council—Hon. W. Wrottesley and Dr. J. E. R. McDonagh retire by rotation at the end of the year, but are eligible for re-election. Any member desirous of serving on the Council, or any member proposing another member for same, must send nominations not later than 30th inst.

Unpaid Subscriptions: Some few members have overlooked the reminders for same; the Hon. Sec.—Mr. S. Williams—will be greatly obliged if they will send same at once, as we are within a few weeks of the end of the year.

Increasing our Membership: Members are requested to re-read notice at foot of page 39 of inset (pink pages) in last issue.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Deficit and Illustration Funds.

These two funds are in great need of all the support members can give them. The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations:

Henderson, Mrs.	0	10	0
Maxwell, C. T.	0	5	0
Murton, Lt. M.	0	5	0
Rice, Capt. G.	1	12	0

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Dr. E. Hopkinson to Bathurst, Gambia, W. Africa.
G. E. Ryan, to 286, Cleveland Square, Hyde Park, London, W., 2.
Mrs. G. A. Perreau to c/o. Editor, Bird Notes.

The Bird Market.

MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

FOR SALE: Cocks, Greater Golden Weaver, 20s., Bronze Abyssinian Weaver, 20s., and Red-headed Weaver, 10s., all thoroughly acclimatised and from outdoor aviary.—S. Williams, 110, Riverway, Palmer's Green, London, N., 13.

FOR SALE: Cock Button Quail, 21s., perfect condition, acclimatised and from outdoor aviary.—Mrs. Bainbridge, Hazelwood, Thorpe, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Three pairs Green Budgerigars, 10s. 6d. pair; 3 odd cocks, 4s. 6d. each; pair Zebra Finches 18s. 6d., one odd cock 6s. 6d. Also a few good singing Canaries, cocks, 10s. 6d., hens 5s. each, breeding pairs 18s. 6d. All birds bred in outdoor aviaries.—Mackness, 22, Cyprus Road, Finchley, London, N., 3.

WANTED: Finger tame Parrakeet, some species of *Brotogerys* preferred. Preference would be given to an Orange-flank, Tovi, or Canary-wing.—Lady E. Windham, Soham House, Newmarket.

FOR SALE: Crossbred Blue × Green Budgerigars, should throw a few Blues each season.—J. W. Marsden, Thornhurst, Tewit Park, Harrogate.

DECEMBER, 1917.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Notices to Members.

Election of Council: No other nominations having been received the retiring members, Hon. W. Wrottesley and Dr. J. E. R. McDonagh, are duly re-elected.

Subscriptions: These become due on January 1st and are payable in advance. A prompt remittance, together with any arrears, will greatly assist the Hon. Sec., Treas. and Editor in their management of Club affairs.

Our Roll: Many have fallen in this terrible war, and we urgently urge one and all to use every effort to secure new members, that, difficult though the time may be, the position, influence and practical utility of the club may be maintained.

SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

The Club's Breeding Medal.

The following appear to have been won:

Green Fruit-Pigeon *(Sphenocercus sphenurus)*, W. Shore Baily.
White-cheeked Finch-Lark *(Pyrrhulauda leucotis)*, W. Shore Baily.
Hybrid Cockatoo *(Cacatua roseicapilla × C. galerita)*, Mrs. M. A. Lee.
Hybrid Firefinch *(Lagonosticta senegala × L. rufopicta)*, Miss E. Lucas.
Hybrid Dove *(Turtur risorius × T. senegalensis)*, H. Whitley.
Hybrid Mannikin *(Munia castaneithorax × Aidemosyne malabarica)*, H. Bright.
Hybrid Mannikin *(Amauresthes fringilloides × Aidemosyne cantans)*, H. Bright.

If any member knows of any previous instance of either of the above species or hybrids having been successfully bred in captivity, information *re* same should be at once sent to the Hon. Editor, as Mr. R. Suggitt (Sec. of Awards Committee) is serving with the Forces.

Correction.

New Member, T. F. M. Wilkinson should be

T. F. M. Williamson, 604, Prospect Avenue, South Pasadena, California, U.S.A.

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Mrs. M. A. Kewley (formerly M. A. Lee), Batt's Hotel, Dover Street, London.

The Bird Market.

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MEMBERS' SALES, EXCHANGES, AND WANTS

FOR SALE: Fine pair Tui Parrakeets, 50s.; Red-collared Lorikeet, 40s.; pair Doves (Necklace cock and Senegal hen), 20s. the pair. All acclimatised.—Miss Peddie-Waddell, 4, Great Stuart Street, Edinburgh.

FOR SALE: Very fine pair Stanley Parrakeets, own breeding, from outdoor aviary.—J. Smith, Woodlands, Kendal.

FOR SALE: Breeding pair Red-rump Parrakeets, outdoors, 50s.; young pair, indoors, 30s.; no dealers.—Lord Tavistock, Warblington House, Havant, Hant.

FOR SALE: Magpie Mannikin, Three-coloured Mannikin, and Spice Finch; or would EXCHANGE for young Zebra Finches—two hens and one cock wanted.—Mrs. Chatterton, 11, Fairfield Road, Crouch End, London, N. 8.

WANTED: Blue Budgerigar.—Hon. Mrs. G. Bourke, Greenlanes, Burnham, Bucks.

WANTED TO EXCHANGE: Indian Shamah, very perfect, tame, young, aviary bred, this year's cock, for another cock, not too old to breed, to introduce new blood.—G. E. Low, 14, Royal Terrace East, Kingstown, Ireland.

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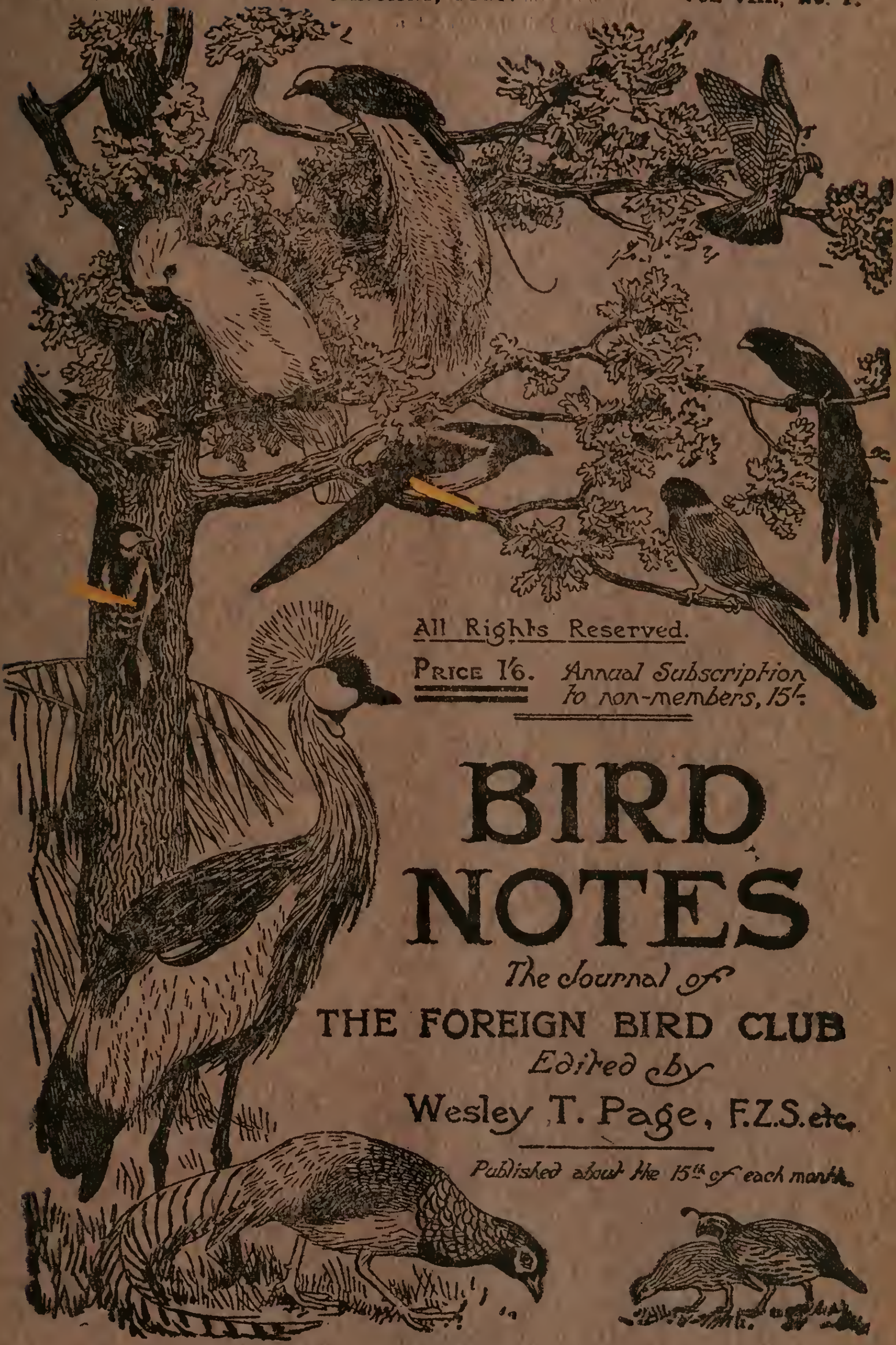

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CONTENTS.

1917 ....By the Editor.

Breeding of Sidney Waxbills .... By Mrs. Stanley Gardiner

My Breeding Experiences—1916...By Mrs. C. A. Longden.

Bakloh Aviary Notes—Part IV. ... By Major G. A. Perreau, F.Z.S.

Birds Feeding at Night .... By R. Tomlinson.

Hybrid Breeding .... By W. Shore Baily.

From All Sources.

Early Experiences ...... By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

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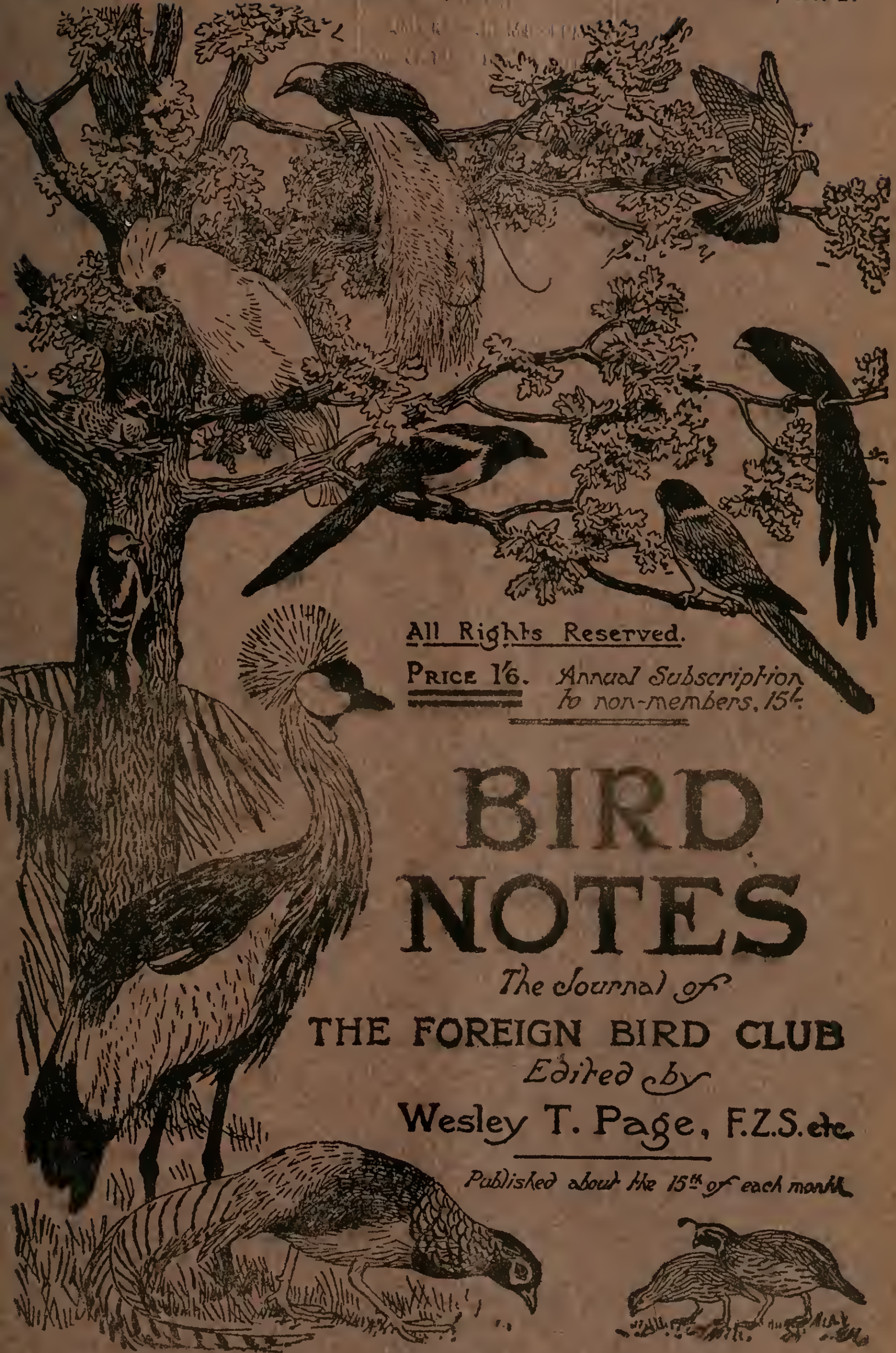

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CONTENTS.

Nesting of the Black-breasted Mexican Quail ..... BY W. SHORE BAILY.

Early Experiences ...... BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

Private Importation of Indian Birds in 1916......BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

Book Notices and Reviews.

From Far and Near.

CORRESPONDENCE: *Hybrid Hawfinch × Bullfinch; Breeding Blue Budgerigars.*

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CONTENTS.

Some Toucans ... BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC., AND G. F. LEACH; F.Z.S..

Some Doves I Have Kept .... BY WM. SHORE BAILY.

Early Experiences .... BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

White-throated Sparrow ... REPRINTED FROM "AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGY" FOR 1901.

EDITORIAL.

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CONTENTS.

Successful Breeding of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos ...... BY H. WHITLEY.

Private Importation of Indian Birds...BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

Some Doves I Have Kept. .... BY W. SHORE-BAILY.

Notes on Breeding Yellow-Rumped Serin × St. Helena Seed-eater Hybrid .... BY MISS E. F. CHAWNER

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OBITUARY.

INSET.

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CONTENTS.

The Green Woodpecker (*Gecinus viridis*) ... By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

The Blackbird that Blighted My Life ... By B. T. Stewart.

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Editorial : *Queen Alexandra Parrakeet; Young Yellow-winged Sugar-bird.*

Correspondence: *To Abolish Rats and Mice.*

British Bird Calendar.

Obituary.

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CONTENTS.

The Spectacled Owl (Syrnium perspicillatum) .... By Miss E. F. Chawner.

Across the Channel .... By Lieut. Frank Dawson-Smith.

Birds of Queensland .... By A. Weston.

Bird Life in the Firing Line ... By Dr. N. S. Lucas, R.A.M.C.

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CONTENTS.

The Cherry Finch .... By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S.

Stray Notes in My Birdroom.............. By Mrs. J. H. Burgess

Whydahs..............................By Dr. E. Hopkinson, D.S.O.

The Nesting of the Fieldfare.................By W. Shore Baily.

The Blue Mountain Lorikeet...By W. H. Workman, M.B.O.U.

The Birds of British Guiana...By Chas. Dawson, S.J., M.A., (Oxon).

A Cruise on the S.Y. "Vectis."...........By W. Shore Baily.

Editorial:—*Zoo Notes; Obituary.*

Correspondence:—*Breeding of Hybrid Queries; Breeding Notes—1917; Breeding Blue Budgerigars; Is the Pin-tailed Whydah Parasitic? (on page 39 of Inset).*

Inset.

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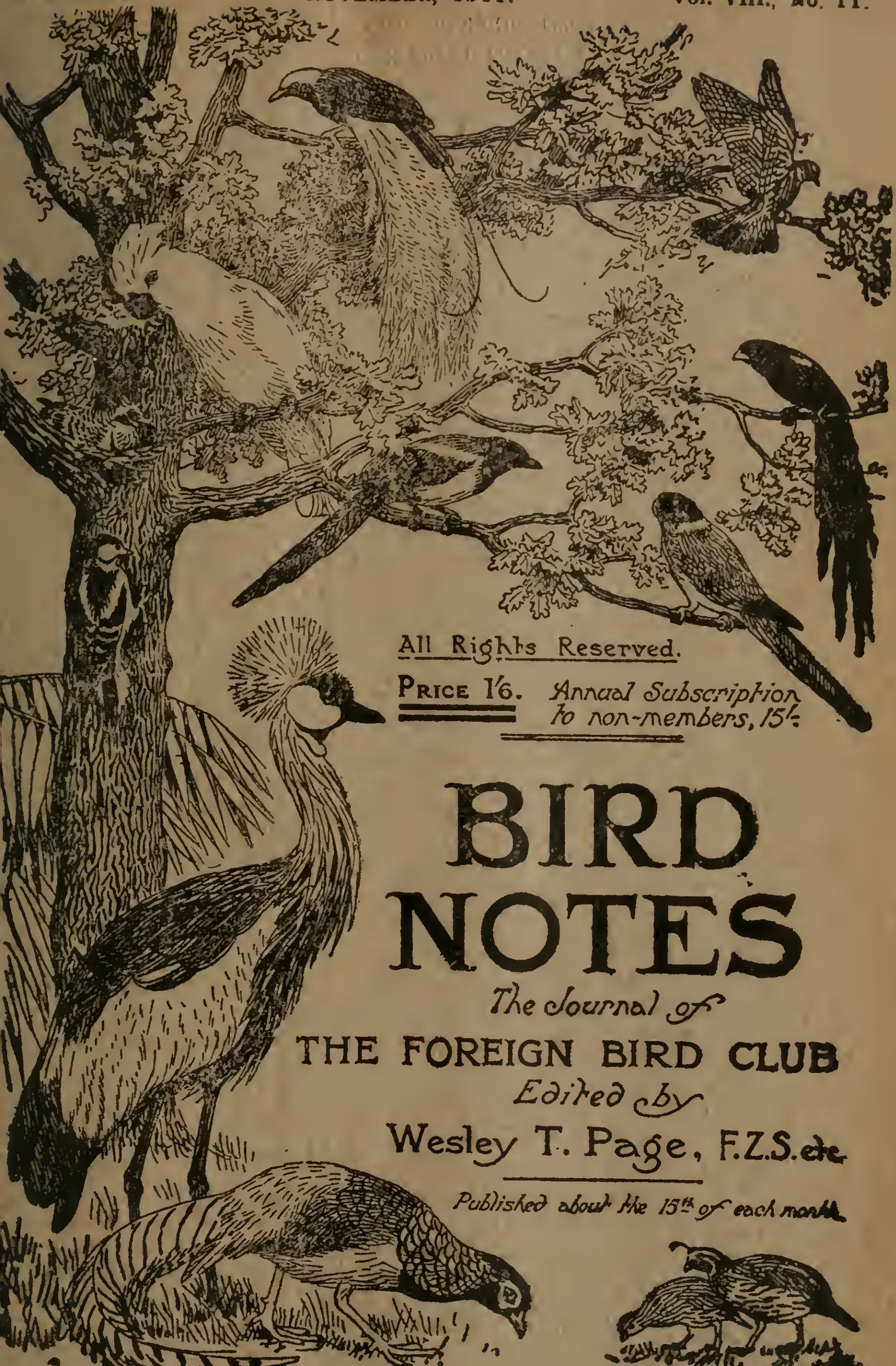

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CONTENTS.

The Laughing Jackass .... By Lieut. F. Dawson-Smith.

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The Nesting of the Brambling .... By R. Suggitt.

Whydahs .... By Dr. E. Hopkinson, D.S.O.

Breeding of Hybrid Chestnut-breasted Finch × *Silverbill* ... By Herbert E. Bright.

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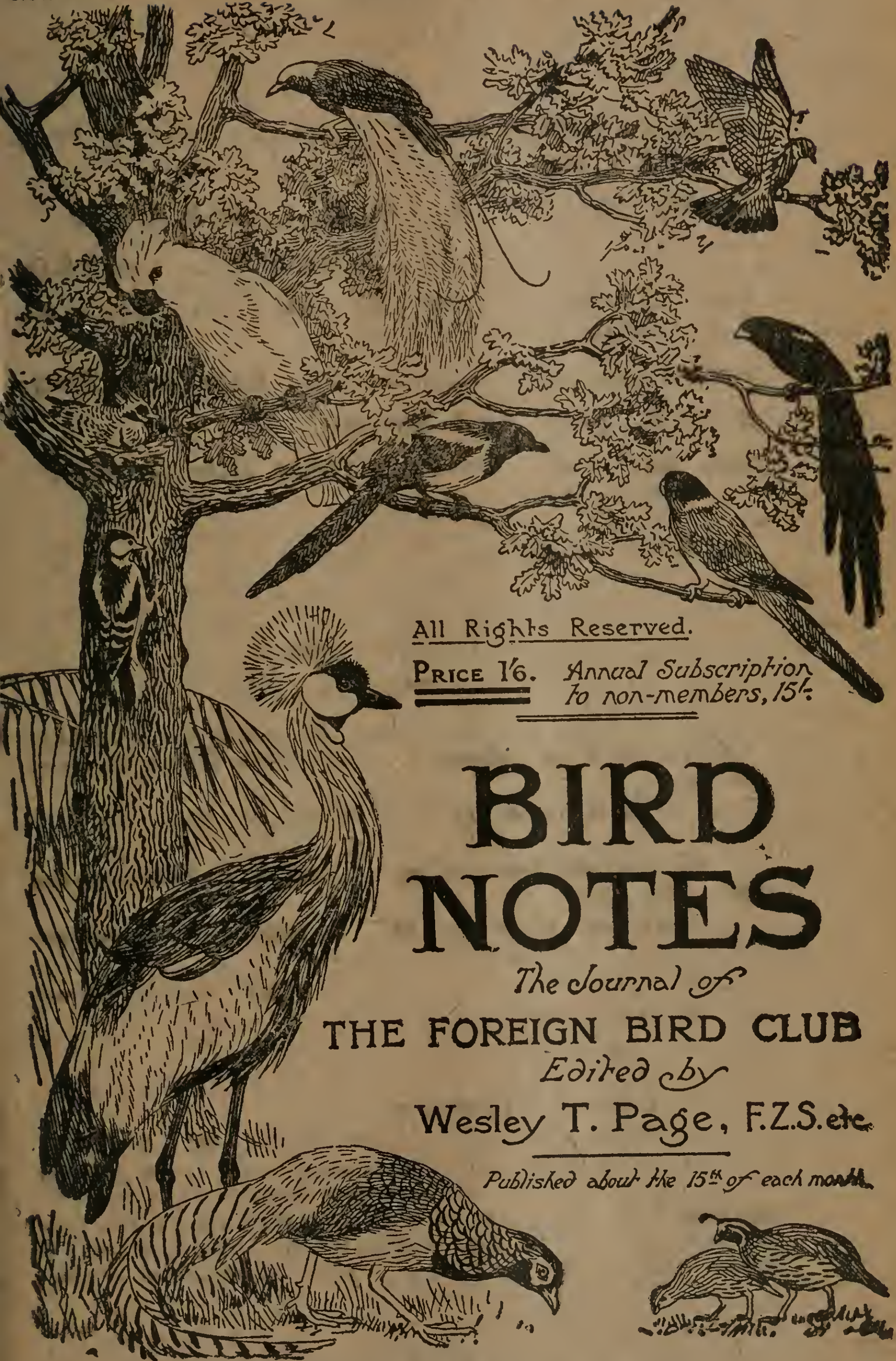

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CONTENTS.

Bicheno's and Ringed Finches .... By Wesley T .Page, F.Z.S., etc.

Breeding of Swainson's Lorikeets .... By E. R. Phillips.

Whydahs .... By Dr. E. Hopkinson, D.S.O.

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Indices to Volume.

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